United Nations

E/C.19/2006/5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Information received from non-governmental organizations

Note by the Secretariat

In its report on its fourth session, held from 16 to 27 May 2004, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues identified proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action and, recommended that States, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization. Information received in this regard from non-governmental organizations is contained in the present note and addenda thereto.

* E/C.19/2006/1.

06-26472 (E) 280306

Redefining the Millennium Development Goals: indigenous peoples and international financial institutions

Statement submitted by Forest Peoples Programme, Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action Aboriginal Corporation, Na Koa Ikaika o Ka Lahui Hawaii, Saami Council and Tebtebba Foundation

1. In her paper entitled "Indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals", the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues set out compelling reasons for redefining the Millennium Development Goals in the case of indigenous peoples (E/C.19/2005/4/Add.13). She observed that a human rights-based approach to the Goals is essential and that for indigenous peoples it is difficult to talk about development without also addressing rights to lands and resources, identity and culture, and self-determination. She also highlighted the importance of moving beyond mitigation measures to providing concerted support for the development choices of indigenous peoples, if pursuit of the Goals is to benefit, rather than prejudice, indigenous peoples.

2. Development, including meeting the Goals, has a strong human rights component, as is affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which stresses that while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. The jurisprudence of the United Nations and regional human rights treaty bodies also emphasizes that principle, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration states that no effort will be spared to achieve respect for all internationally recognized human rights. Respect for the rights of indigenous peoples should therefore be fundamental to pursuing the Goals.

3. In order to adequately redefine the Goals as they relate to indigenous peoples, the role, policies and practices of international financial institutions also must be addressed. International financial institutions include such multilateral bodies as the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks, United Nations programmes and funds, bilateral donor agencies and national export credit agencies, and private commercial banks. International financial institutions provide a large proportion of the funding for projects aimed at achieving the Goals or that otherwise affect their achievement and some promote far-reaching policy and sectoral loans that often have profound consequences for indigenous peoples. International financial institutions also influence the design of national structural adjustment programmes, fiscal and macroeconomic policies and trade and investment policies of borrower countries.

4. Attention to international financial institutions is also critical as many of them have recently revised or are presently revising their policies on indigenous peoples. There is an emerging global shift at the policy level concerning how the institutions view indigenous peoples in their activities. Some of these institutions are members of the United Nations system and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. It is critically important that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and indigenous peoples actively participate in these policy revisions to ensure that the implementation of the policies will be consistent with the rights and perspectives of indigenous peoples.

5. International financial institutions that have revised or are presently revising policies include the World Bank, the Asian and Inter-American Development Banks and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). For the most part, these policies fall below international human rights standards applying to indigenous peoples. In the case of certain loans, particularly technical assistance, sectoral and structural adjustment loans, there are no specific guarantees applicable to indigenous peoples. Institutions without a formal operational policy on indigenous peoples include the International Monetary Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the African Development Bank, most bilateral donors and export credit agencies, and a number of large commercial banks.

6. The revision of the IFC policies has ramifications that extend far beyond the operations of IFC itself. These policies may soon be adopted by around 40 large commercial banks that have subscribed to the Equator Principles.[1] These banks provide an estimated 80 per cent (US$ 125 billion) of private sector international project finance. Further, export credit agencies are increasingly relying on IFC policies. Therefore, as IFC revises its own policies, it is in effect undertaking a global standard-setting exercise affecting environmental and social issues in the majority of privately financed foreign direct investment projects.

7. International financial institution projects and sectoral loans often have serious negative impacts on indigenous peoples rights. This has been recognized by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, who observed that in numerous instances the rights and needs of indigenous peoples are disregarded, making this one of the major human rights problems faced by them in recent decades. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources reached the same conclusion, as have the World Bank studies, which found that indigenous peoples have often been on the losing end of the development process.

8. These negative impacts are not necessarily avoided or effectively mitigated simply because an international financial institution has a policy on indigenous peoples, especially where these policies lack effective safeguards for rights to traditional territories and free, prior and informed consent. The Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues explained that protection and mitigation of the adverse impacts of development were not enough for indigenous peoples who had not sought such projects in the first place.

Recommendations

9. We urge the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to make the following recommendations:

- **That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues initiate or intensify its dialogue with international financial institutions about their policies and activities to underscore the fundamental importance of respecting indigenous peoples rights to lands, territories and resources and to free, prior and informed consent in relation to development-related activities. This includes looking into sectoral, structural adjustment and technical assistance loans, and how these impact on indigenous peoples;**

[1] See http://www.equator-principles.com.

- That the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues request and collate information from international financial institutions on their policies and projects affecting indigenous peoples and undertake in-depth case studies of projects financed by international financial institutions to identify norms and best practices on how development projects can effectively uphold indigenous peoples rights and strengthen the development choices of indigenous peoples;

- As a follow-up to the January 2005 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues workshop on free, prior and informed consent, that the Forum draft a decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council authorizing a workshop to elaborate indicators on free, prior and informed consent and other pertinent issues, including as they relate to international financial institutions;

- That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues meet with IFC, with the aim of assisting it to develop implementation guides and principles that will apply to putting its new policies into operation;

- That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues request information from the World Bank and IFC on the implementation of their policies and that the Forum meets with the Board of Executive Directors and the management of the World Bank in relation to the three-year review of Operational Policy 4.10 and implementation of the new IFC policy;

- That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommend that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, in collaboration with other rapporteurs and experts of the Forum, prepare a report on indigenous peoples rights and development and international financial institutions;

- That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues act on the November 2005 invitation of a number of the Equator banks to begin a dialogue on indigenous peoples issues, especially in relation to their adoption and implementation of the new IFC policy framework, and that the Forum convene, before its next session, a seminar with indigenous peoples and Equator banks representatives;

- That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues communicate with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Export Credit Division and its working party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees, with a view to ensuring that adequate and effective policies are in place to safeguard the rights and interests of indigenous peoples affected by activities financed by export credit agencies;

- That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues become involved with the ongoing formulation and review of the policies of the Inter-American and Asia Development Banks on indigenous peoples and encourage the African Development Bank to draw upon the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and, in collaboration with African indigenous peoples, discuss the development of an operational policy on indigenous peoples;

- **That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommend that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights develop and adopt, with the participation of indigenous peoples, a general comment on indigenous peoples that includes treatment of issues related to international financial institutions and the Millennium Development Goals;**

- **That the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues help ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in poverty, environmental, human rights and social impact assessment studies being undertaken by the international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations on their policies, programmes and projects.**

United Nations

E/C.19/2006/5/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Items 3 and 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Ongoing priorities and themes: human rights, with special emphasis on interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

Information received from non-governmental organizations

Indian Law Resource Centre and VIVAT International

Summary

In its report on its fourth session, held from 16 to 27 May 2005, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues identified proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action and recommended that States, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization. Information received in this regard from non-governmental organizations is contained in the present document.

* E/C.19/2006/1.

06-26689 (E) 210306

I. Indian Law Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

1. The Millennium Development Goals are derived from the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in 2000, which recognized and reaffirmed human rights treaties. This implies that States cannot achieve the Goals while disregarding human rights principles, including the principle of non-discrimination.[1] In the case of indigenous peoples, upholding human rights norms and principles is critical, owing to the negative impact many development policies and practices have on indigenous peoples' lands and livelihoods. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues have specifically noted that efforts to meet the Goals could have harmful effects on indigenous peoples, such as the acceleration of the loss of lands and natural resources on which their livelihoods depend or their displacement from those lands (see E/C.19/2005/2).

2. Indigenous lands and resources are particularly vulnerable to unjust expropriation or loss because of the enormous disparity in wealth and power between most indigenous peoples and the economic interests that seek to use, exploit or expropriate indigenous lands and resources.[2] These economic interests include States, private corporations and banks, and international financial institutions. International financial institutions pose specific threats to indigenous peoples' rights and interests because they finance many large infrastructure or extractive industry projects within indigenous lands and territories. Although such projects have had devastating impacts on indigenous peoples in the past, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and other international financial institutions are once again pushing for a revitalization of large industrial and infrastructure projects. The World Bank, in particular, had decided in 2003 to embark on what it called a "high-risk/high-reward" strategy. It lifted its ban on the financing of commercial logging operations in rainforests, announced its renewed support of contentious large dams, and is considering support for massive oil, gas, and mining projects in high-risk environments.[3] The World Bank and other international financial institutions are financing such projects without assuming any explicit legal responsibilities for upholding human rights norms, despite the great dangers those projects pose to the environment and the well-being of indigenous peoples and other affected communities.

3. As pointed out, on various occasions, international financial institutions have been complicit in human rights violations when they financed Governments and/or corporations that directly engaged in human rights abuses. The Chad-Cameroon pipeline project is a notorious example.[4] This project, one of the largest private sector investment projects in Africa, transports oil from the Doba oilfields in

[1] "Newsletter: The ILO and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples", April 2005.

[2] Robert T. Coulter, Indian Law Resource Centre, "Indigenous Land and Resource Rights: implementation and monitoring" (HR/GENEVA/IP/SEM/2006/BP.2), document prepared for the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources and on Their Relationship to Land, 25-27 January 2006, Geneva.

[3] Friends of the Earth, Environmental Defense Fund and International Rivers Network, "Gambling with peoples lives: what the World Bank's new 'high-risk/high-reward' strategy means for the poor and the environment", September 2003.

[4] Amnesty International, "Contracting out of human rights: the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project", September 2005.

southern Chad to a Cameroonian Atlantic port. The pre-lending assessment of the International Finance Corporation did not take into account the potential human rights impact of the framework of legal agreements, known as host government agreements, signed between the ExxonMobil-led consortium and the Governments of Chad and Cameroon. These agreements are designed to reduce the financial and political risks posed to foreign investors by sudden changes in national laws. Such agreements create an incentive to weaken national laws and human rights protection by requiring countries to pay large penalties if they interrupt the operation for any reason. Amnesty International has noted that the perverse incentives created by such agreements and endorsed by the international financial institutions that provide financing, undermine the human rights obligations of the States and the responsibilities of the companies involved.

4. Many international financial institutions also undermine the human rights of indigenous peoples by actively promoting agreements or joint-venture partnerships with third parties who ignore the rights of local communities when implementing international financial institution-financed projects. Large conservation organizations, for example, have recently come under scrutiny for their increased reliance on funding from bilateral and multilateral finance agencies. It has been noted that the new joint ventures, cooperative agreements, and partnerships those organizations form with corporations and multilateral finance agencies have resulted in growing conflicts of interest and a disturbing neglect of the indigenous peoples the conservation of whose land the organizations are in business to protect.[5] Specifically, it has often led to disagreement over the establishment of protected natural areas and biological corridors; the eviction and internal displacement of indigenous peoples; the land's traditional uses being declared "illegal", resulting in prosecution of the inhabitants by government authorities or private security forces; and the partnering of conservation organizations with multinational corporations — particularly in the businesses of gas and oil, pharmaceuticals and mining — that are directly involved in pillaging and destroying forest areas owned by indigenous peoples.[6] Even where indigenous peoples are provided with "co-management" opportunities, they often become permanently indentured as park rangers, porters, waiters, harvesters or ecotour guides; under this model, it has been noted that "'conservation' edges ever closer to 'development', while native communities are assimilated into the lowest ranks of national cultures".[7]

5. Given the influence that international financial institutions exert over borrower countries, the scale of the joint ventures they establish with corporations and banks and conservation organizations, and the magnitude of the impact of their activities, the human rights responsibilities of international financial institutions should be addressed by the Permanent Forum and other United Nations bodies. The Permanent Forum should acquire research and monitoring functions in order to promote implementation of and respect for indigenous land and resource rights, and to address the manner in which the policies and practices of international financial institutions — and their partners and clients — adversely affect those rights.

[5] Mac Chapin, "A challenge to conservationists", *World Watch Magazine*, November/December 2004.

[6] Ibid., p. 18.

[7] Mark Dowie, "Conservation refugees", *Orion Magazine*, November/December 2005. Available from www.oriononline.org.

Specific recommendations

6. The recognition of indigenous peoples as distinct peoples and the respect for their human rights, rights to lands and territories and sustainable use of natural resources are crucial for achieving sustainable development and for poverty eradication.[8] The Permanent Forum should assume a constructive role regarding problems pertaining to indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources, with specific attention to indigenous peoples' right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources. The Secretariat should specifically work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies to follow up on the recommendations included in the reports written by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Erica-Irene A. Daes,[9] as well as the recommendations of the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources and on Their Relationship to Land.[10]

7. As a follow-up to the meetings that the Permanent Forum held with the World Bank and international financial institutions in November 2005, the Permanent Forum should continue to hold regular dialogues with international financial institutions to alter the implementation of their policies and activities so as to ensure stronger protection for indigenous peoples' land and resources rights, including free prior informed consent, and to prevent forced relocation. Such dialogues should also promote a general adherence of international financial institutions to international human rights norms. Similarly, the Permanent Forum should regularly dialogue with conservation organizations, especially those implementing international financial institution-financed activities.

8. The Permanent Forum should initiate efforts to research, gather information, and compile case studies that demonstrate the systematic manner in which activities of the international financial institutions may lead to human rights abuses on indigenous land and territories. Such a study will be necessary to make a case for stronger compliance with international human rights norms on the part of international financial institutions.

9. The Permanent Forum should promote the need for new human rights standards that apply directly to multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions within the standard-setting body of the new Human Rights Council. Such standards are needed because these banks operate with no applicable law. New standards should be drafted to address clearly the specific activities and decisions of these banks that constitute, result in or lead to violations of human rights, especially in relation to indigenous peoples.

10. The Permanent Forum should assume a constructive role in militating against intrusion, other forms of penetration, and infringement upon indigenous land rights by States, corporations and international financial institutions. To prevent such intrusions and other human rights abuses, there is a need for established and well-funded mechanisms for negotiation and

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43 and Corr.1 and 2).

[9] E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/21 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/30 and Add.1.

[10] Available from http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/sovereignty.htm.

agreement between the State and indigenous peoples, between international financial institutions and indigenous peoples, and between conservation groups and indigenous peoples so as to implement the establishment of indigenous land and resource rights.

11. **In the face of threats from multiple economic interests, it is critical that indigenous peoples be provided with international technical assistance and cooperation on negotiation and conflict resolution from a human rights perspective. The Permanent Forum should help establish such mechanisms to provide technical assistance to indigenous peoples.**

II. VIVAT International, a non-governmental organization, in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

12. The indigenous peoples are bearing the brunt of injustice and poverty for most of their lives. VIVAT International has journeyed with indigenous peoples, ranging from the Fon, Adja, Yoruba, Somba and Bariba of Benin in Africa, to the Mamanwas and Igorots of the Philippines in Asia, in their struggle for a just, decent and dignified life. Indigenous peoples in many regions of the world continue to face a future of uncertainty. Unfortunately, the plight of the indigenous peoples has been largely ignored.

13. The indigenous peoples belong to the invisible sector of society. They are rarely mentioned, much less consulted on national decisions made, even if those decisions directly affect them. Even statistics ignore them! We therefore support all efforts to make them visible, foremost of which is acknowledging their right to free, prior and informed consent on matters that directly concern them. If the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved, we must start with the indigenous peoples, as the theme suggests. Thus, redefining the Millennium Development Goals is a matter of integrating indigenous peoples' concerns under the Goals rubric. We must not ignore them but rather learn from them.

14. Our experience tells us that indigenous peoples can be models for sustainable development, alternative governance and communal living that is centred on the family. They are promoters of the integrity of creation: respect for nature, lasting relationships with each other and creation, promotion of life, unity in the midst of diversity and self-determination; yet, we seldom take note of them and learn from them.

15. Integration is not the same as assimilation. Integration is based on human rights and respect for and openness to diversity. Assimilation leads to uniformity, where there is little room for cultural diversity. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, advocated in her speech on "Indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals": "More in-depth discussions and dialogues among indigenous peoples and between them and Governments, intergovernmental bodies and the broader society to develop further their perspectives and recommendations on indigenous development paradigms. These should further develop and popularize concepts such as 'ethno-development', 'life-projects', 'development with identity', and so forth. Such processes will elaborate further on how to address the structural causes of indigenous poverty."

Hearing their voices can give the world a new impetus for a just and sustainable development.

16. The following issues are crucial in order for the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015. The international community and the Governments need to pay urgent attention to them. They are:

- Lack of access to basic services like clean water, shelter, land, education, medicine and good governance
- Continuing historical, structural and cultural prejudice and political neglect
- Militarization of the areas where indigenous people live, resulting in displacement and making them internal refugees
- Displacements and violation of human rights caused by operations of large industries that, in extracting resources using open-pit mining and dams, destroy the environment, which in most cases is the home of indigenous peoples
- The fact that indigenous peoples in many countries have no right to own land and are not allowed to develop their own language, culture and traditions
- The fact that indigenous workers not only are poorly educated for formal employment, but also experience poor health, thereby perpetuating the "cycle of poverty"

17. Therefore, we urge all Governments and international bodies to:

- **Heed the International Expert Group which stated at the International Expert Group Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance (New York, 11-13 January 2006): "We reaffirm our commitment to continue making progress in the advancement of the human rights of the world's indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional and international levels, including through consultation and collaboration with them, and to present for adoption a final draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as soon as possible" (see General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 127).**
- **Institute a genuine dialogue process with indigenous peoples living in their territory. As stated by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz: "The assertions of indigenous peoples that their cultures, governance and economic systems, and identities and their rights to be distinct should be respected and considered in nation-building was a clarion call for some Governments to take a second look at how they have regarded indigenous peoples found within their national borders" ("In larger freedom: the challenge of partnerships from indigenous peoples' perspectives", presentation at the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 7-9 September 2005, p. 3).**
- **Implement promises made at the 2005 World Summit, especially the Millennium Development Goals of providing food, and start with our indigenous brothers and sisters.**

- **Support United Nations efforts to make our indigenous brothers and sisters visible and heard internationally through the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.**

United Nations E/C.19/2006/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

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* E/C.19/2006/1

06-26277 (E) 220306

International Labour Organization

Summary

The written submission of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session outlines the current status of a number of ILO projects and programmes addressing indigenous issues. The present report has been coordinated by the Intersectoral Advisory Group on Indigenous Issues recently formed by ILO. It brings together information and inputs relevant to indigenous and tribal peoples from diverse programmes within ILO, focusing on those relevant to the redefinition of the Millennium Development Goals. Within the context of relevant sections of the report, there are also a number of suggestions and recommendations arising from the information therein.

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I. Response to recommendations of the Forum addressed exclusively to particular agencies/ funds/programmes/departments

1. Below are brief responses to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues contained in the report on its fourth session.[1]

Recommendation

(E/2005/43, para. 31)

2. This recommendation refers to several distinct priorities and processes. In the experience of the International Labour Organization (ILO), capacity-building implies a process of medium- and long-term interventions preceded by research and consultation to identify specific needs to be addressed by such capacity-building. This is the case both for indigenous communities and organizations and for the institutions that seek to improve their ability to address indigenous and tribal peoples. Indeed, the two types of capacity-building go hand-in-hand, since institutions must work in collaboration and consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations when addressing the challenges they face.

3. While workshops are useful in that they bring together multiple stakeholders, generate a shared understanding of indigenous concerns and enable actors to attend more effectively to indigenous development issues, care must be taken to ensure that they are not stand-alone events but part of ongoing and longer-term programmes. ILO is currently engaged in a number of needs identification and capacity-building activities that can contribute to capacity-building concerning the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as suggested in the Forum's recommendation. Needs identification activities in this regard involve a series of research projects, including:

(a) Analysis of 14 national poverty reduction strategy papers for their ethnic content;

(b) Three country studies on the participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in the development and implementation of national poverty reduction strategy papers, and indigenous perceptions of poverty;

(c) In-depth national consultations on poverty reduction strategy papers and decent work in Nepal;

(d) Five micro case studies on achieving the MDGs in selected indigenous communities in Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala and Nepal.

4. Such research deepens our understanding of, inter alia, capacity-building needs in a number of contexts, thus helping to outline strategies and priorities for working towards the inclusion of indigenous issues in the MDG processes. One of the overall objectives of such research from the international to the local level has been to identify the particular capacity-building needs of a range of specific actors, institutions, Governments and indigenous peoples' communities and organizations, that are key to achieving the MDGs.

5. With regard to capacity-building, ILO is engaged in medium- and long-term capacity-building at the international, national and local levels with the United

Nations and other multilateral agencies, Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations, including:

(a) At the national, provincial and community levels in Cambodia, in the context of a project on a rights-based approach to indigenous peoples' development;

(b) At the national level in Kenya, with a number of indigenous organizations;

(c) In Nepal, with the national umbrella organization of indigenous peoples and the Government of Nepal.

6. At the institutional level, and on the basis of its technical experience, ILO continues to organize capacity-building between United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the multilateral donor community in order to assist those actors in developing tools to work effectively in concord with indigenous tribal peoples. Examples of such activities are:

(a) A technical seminar in October 2005 on development cooperation and indigenous and tribal peoples for representatives from agencies of the United Nations system, United Nations departments and donors, enabling different agencies faced with similar challenges in the field of indigenous rights to share their experiences;

(b) A training seminar in Turin, Italy, for key staff from ILO, United Nations agencies and donors. The training was intended to build upon the tools and competencies of those actors to address indigenous sustainable development issues;

(c) Building on the experiences of 2005, ILO training activities in 2006 will expand, and the technical seminar will again be hosted in October 2006.

7. All such activities, which are further detailed in section IV below, attest to the ongoing contribution of ILO to capacity-building for the sustainable development of indigenous communities and to the active participation of the organization in the MDG process.

II. Responses to recommendations of the Forum addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system

8. Below are brief responses to the recommendations of the Forum that are of relevance to ILO. They are not extensive, but, where necessary, references to other sources of information are included. Most of the information pertaining to the recommendations is included under other subject headings in the present report to avoid duplication and to ensure proper contextualization.

Recommendation
(E/2005/43, para. 8)

9. ILO calls attention to the research and awareness-raising efforts it is undertaking in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which are outlined in paragraph 22 (b) below.

Recommendation

(E/2005/43, para. 15)

10. ILO compiles data on indigenous issues as a by-product of: country reporting on the application of the provisions of the ILO Convention concerning the Protection and Integration of Indigenous and Other Tribal and Semi-Tribal Populations in Independent Countries (Convention No. 107) of 1957, the ILO Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Convention No. 169) of 1989, and output from technical cooperation projects relating to indigenous issues undertaken with technical support from ILO (for example, on the rights of indigenous peoples or on forced labour). Those statistics are therefore not fully representative of all indigenous groups at either the country or global level. There are considerable gaps in the quantitative information available to ILO on indigenous and tribal peoples.

11. However, some work has been undertaken recently by the Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. In this regard, three case studies on indigenous participation in poverty reduction strategy processes have been carried out in Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal, in consultation with indigenous peoples. The main conclusions of those studies are outlined in paragraphs 53 to 61 below. Aside from those conclusions, however, the studies raised important concerns regarding indigenous and tribal peoples' perceptions of poverty, which are often quite different from those of the mainstream population.

12. The studies in Cambodia and Cameroon, for example, were based on in-depth consultations with a number of indigenous communities, and the following general commonalities concerning indigenous peoples' own indicators of poverty can be drawn from them:

(a) Indigenous peoples' perceptions of poverty are not static, but change according to the levels of their integration into mainstream society and the market economy as well as the specific problems of lack of access to land and resources that indigenous communities face;

(b) Lack of land and resource rights were cited as a major indicator of poverty by the communities consulted;

(c) Lack of recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples was also felt by the peoples concerned to be a hindrance to the design of effective and more appropriate ways of addressing their poverty situation;

(d) Lack of access to services (education, health) is an important indicator of poverty;

(e) Food security is key to indigenous peoples' own perceptions of poverty;

(f) Cultural poverty (with particular reference to the gradual erosion of traditional decision-making) was also highlighted as an important indicator of poverty;

(g) Lack of knowledge and information is also an important contributing factor to their situation of poverty.

13. The above conclusions constitute the results of consultations with specific indigenous communities and organizations. It must be highlighted, therefore, that further work needs to be done in this area in order to generate results that can be

more widely applicable. However, such studies can provide guidance for further work to develop indicators. It is of utmost importance that any development of indigenous-specific indicators must be based on consultations with the representatives of the communities and peoples concerned.

14. ILO is about to start a review of possible indicators concerning the economic activity and conditions of work of indigenous groups in the context of other projects that are about to begin. They will not yet be of general application, but may provide a basis for further work.

Recommendation
(E/2005/43, para. 16)

15. As mentioned above, capacity-building to address indigenous issues is a key part of the work of the ILO Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (PRO 169). Institutional, regional and country specific capacity-building activities are outlined in section IV below.

Recommendation
(E/2005/43, para. 70)

16. ILO has funded the translation of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 into several languages, including indigenous languages (available at http://www.ilo.org/indigenous). It is also foreseen that various training materials will be translated into indigenous languages for the purposes of country-level activities.

Recommendation
(E/2005/43, para. 73)

17. As outlined in paragraph 36 below, ILO provided support to the National Indian Foundation of Brazil in organizing the first International Symposium on Isolated Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Region precisely to respond to the need to formulate common protection policies for isolated indigenous peoples.

III. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Forum and other policies relevant to indigenous peoples

Recommendation
(E/2005/43, para. 22)

18. For a discussion on the issues pertaining to the establishment of partnerships between international organizations and indigenous peoples, please see paragraphs 84 to 90 below. ILO operates on the basis of consultation and participation with indigenous and tribal peoples, but is also mindful of the challenges of working with small indigenous organizations, particularly in respect of the organizational gap that often exists between the international and the local levels. It is also important to bear in mind the problem of imposing the organizational logic of international organizations on indigenous peoples.

IV. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes or activities regarding indigenous issues within the International Labour Organization

19. Many of the activities outlined below are covered in further detail in the most recent *Newsletter on Indigenous Issues*, which is available on the ILO website at http://www.ilo.org/indigenous and in hard copy from PRO 169.

A. Intersectoral Advisory Group on Indigenous Issues

20. To ensure the coordination of the rights and poverty reduction activities of ILO departments addressing indigenous and tribal peoples, an advisory group was recently formed. In addition to enabling the development of an overall strategic framework for the work of ILO on issues concerning indigenous tribal peoples, the group aims to make more evident the linkages between those issues and the core areas of the work of ILO. For example, fundamental rights, poverty, child labour, forced/bonded labour, migration and discrimination activities are increasingly incorporating an indigenous and tribal peoples' rights agenda. As such, the advisory group plays an important role in the broader agenda of mainstreaming concerns related to indigenous tribal peoples into all areas of the work of ILO.

B. Project to Promote International Labour Organization Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

21. Priority areas and future strategies of the project are:

(a) **Staff training**: initial experiences in this area have been very positive, and the aim is to continue to build the capacity of ILO staff to address indigenous issues through continued training in 2006. In addition to interregional training, two regional activities will be held in Africa and Asia, where the needs are greatest;

(b) **Mainstreaming**: PRO 169 continues to identify and pursue entry points through ILO initiatives in other areas, for example under the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Programme to Eliminate Child Labour. As such, PRO 169 acts as the focal point for the ILO Intersectoral Advisory Group on Indigenous Issues (see para. 20 above);

(c) **Implementation**: while ILO Convention No. 169 provides a guiding framework for consultation and participation, there is a pressing need to examine the specific processes entailed in the implementation of its principles. In line with that objective, and as an initial step to developing guidelines for Governments, indigenous peoples and other relevant actors, PRO 169 will begin to document good practices in that area.

Project to Promote International Labour Organization Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples work funded by the European Commission's Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights

22. PRO 169 has recently secured funding from the European Commission's Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights to cover a three-year work plan. It includes the following three components:

(a) **Exchange of experiences on the implementation of the principles of ILO Convention No. 169 on a global scale**: as a first step, regional consultations will be held with Governments and indigenous organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America in order to identify partnerships for research on good practices related to the implementation of the principles of ILO Convention No. 169. The research will cover impact assessments; constitutional reform and the development of adequate institutional frameworks; self-management; land rights and natural resources; customary law; conflict prevention and resolution; development cooperation; employment and traditional economies; and health and education. The results of the research will be used to elaborate a series of best practices, with particular focus on consultation and participation;

(b) **Promotion of the rights of indigenous populations/communities in Africa through the documentation and discussion of relevant legal and constitutional provisions**: a collaborative project will be undertaken with the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to conduct research on legislative and constitutional provisions and their implementation in a series of African countries. A project steering committee has been created to manage the collaboration between the African Commission, PRO 169 and implementing institutions. The main outcome of the research will be a comprehensive document and database of relevant African legislation to be disseminated to and used by all actors engaged in the promotion and protection of indigenous and tribal peoples' rights in Africa;

(c) **Capacity-building for dialogue in South Asia**: this component will focus on facilitating dialogue on indigenous issues in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan involving Governments, indigenous institutions and civil society organizations. Dialogue networks will enable the development of properly targeted training for indigenous organizations, government institutions and civil society organizations. Where ILO Convention No. 107 is in force (in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan), it will be used as a platform for dialogue and capacity-building activities to raise awareness of indigenous issues. Additionally, a focus on decent work will identify the main barriers to employment and the economic development of indigenous and tribal peoples in the areas concerned.

Training of staff

23. PRO 169 organized a training seminar in Turin, Italy, in September 2005 for key staff from ILO headquarters and field offices and bilateral and multilateral agencies. The aim of the seminar was to build the capacity of participants to promote and apply the principles of ILO Convention No. 169. Indigenous resource persons were present to share their experiences with the participants. Beginning in 2006, further training seminars will be organized at the regional level in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Technical seminar

24. In October 2005, ILO hosted a technical seminar for representatives from United Nations departments, agencies of the United Nations system and donors, giving different agencies faced with similar challenges in the field of indigenous rights the opportunity to share their experiences. The event was also an opportunity to strengthen inter-agency relationships and to identify areas for future collaboration and joint action.

PRO 169 activities in Nepal

25. In Nepal, PRO 169 carried out the following activities:

(a) PRO 169 launched two publications in Nepal in December 2005, *Convention No. 169 and Peacebuilding in Nepal*, and *Indigenous Peoples, Poverty Reduction and Conflict in Nepal*;

(b) Representatives of PRO 169 participated in the first regional consultation on decent work for indigenous peoples, held in Dharan, and in a seminar on the human rights of indigenous nationalities in Nepal. Both proved effective platforms to raise awareness about the work of ILO for indigenous and tribal peoples in Nepal and to address issues of social exclusion and peacebuilding;

(c) A microstudy on achieving the MDGs is being carried out in an endangered Janajati group in the northern part of the Dolakha district (see paras. 66 and 67 below);

(d) PRO 169 is organizing two advocacy workshops to raise the profile of indigenous women's issues in Nepal, one for government and national NGOs (Nepali) and the other for indigenous NGOs, to take place in 2006.

Projects in Cambodia and Cameroon

26. PRO 169 has undertaken case studies in Cambodia and Cameroon on the relevance of poverty reduction strategy papers for indigenous tribal peoples, and their participation in the poverty reduction strategy paper process. During 2005, the studies were finalized and launched at the international level (at the fourth session of the Forum) and in their respective countries. For information on the recommendations contained in the reports and on follow-up work, see paragraphs 53 to 60 below.

Cambodia

27. A workshop was held in May 2005 to launch a project on the rights-based approach to indigenous peoples' development in Cambodia. The project aims to improve the legislative and policy environment for indigenous and tribal peoples in Cambodia and to strengthen their representative organizations to play a more active role in decision-making and development processes. The workshop involved consultations with 27 indigenous representatives from 14 provinces, all of whom met and prepared for a day prior to meeting with other stakeholders and with bilateral and multilateral donors.

28. As a result of the workshop, the national project is now focusing on two main objectives: the improvement of the policy environment concerning indigenous and tribal peoples in Cambodia and the facilitation of effective implementation of

legislation; and the strengthening of indigenous and tribal peoples' representative organizations to play a more active role in decision-making and development processes.

Cameroon

29. PRO 169 and the subregional office of ILO in Yaoundé have been working on indigenous issues for over two years. In follow-up to this work, a national workshop was held in Cameroon from 15 to 17 June 2005. The workshop aimed to facilitate a constructive national dialogue among indigenous and tribal peoples, state actors, trade unions and other concerned actors and to achieve a common understanding of the working and living conditions of indigenous and tribal peoples in Cameroon.

30. The workshop also built on the recommendations of two research projects: a study on the legal framework for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Cameroon (a participatory undertaking comprising desk study and consultations with indigenous representatives, government officials and non-governmental organizations in three provinces of Cameroon);[2] and a study on indigenous participation in the development of the national poverty reduction strategy and indigenous perceptions of poverty.[3] As the first national workshop to bring together representatives of all the groups who consider themselves as indigenous and tribal peoples in Cameroon, this in itself was a significant event.

31. In follow-up to the recommendations of the consultative workshop, a two-year capacity-building project is currently being designed.

Millennium Development Goals: micro case studies

32. Micro case studies are currently being undertaken in Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala and Nepal. In each country, research focuses on analysing the micro- and macro-scale factors in individual indigenous communities or villages that need to be addressed in order to achieve MDGs. Along with the poverty reduction strategy papers, the studies contribute to the work of the Forum in its task to advise the United Nations system on the implementation of the MDGs for indigenous and tribal peoples.

Project to examine indigenous customary law in Morocco

33. Research into the question of how Moroccan indigenous customary law can be integrated into mainstream national legislation in order to consolidate the participation of indigenous peoples in the social and development processes that affect them is the outcome of a collaborative project by Tamaynut, an indigenous peoples' association in Morocco, and ILO.

34. The immediate objectives of the study are: to take customary law into account in national legislation in diverse juridical domains and to facilitate a discussion at the national level on the creation of systematic procedures that allow for the participation of the economic, social and cultural organizational structures of Amazigh communities in programmes, projects or politics concerning the development of their lands.

35. To that end, a compendium of Amazigh customary laws, to be published in Amazigh, Arabic and French, and a comparative analysis of national legislation and

customary law will form the platform for dialogue among the Government, indigenous peoples, the media, NGOs and other concerned parties.

Activities of the International Labour Organization in South America

First International Symposium on Isolated Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Region

36. ILO provided support to Brazil's National Indian Foundation in the organization of the first International Symposium on Isolated Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Region. The Foundation proposed the holding of the symposium to establish a dialogue on the formulation of common protection policies for isolated or uncontacted indigenous groups in the Amazon region.

Training on national and international indigenous rights law for indigenous leaders and lawyers

37. The two-and-a-half-day training was held at the ILO office in Brasilia in July 2005 to promote a better understanding of national and international procedures and consolidate and strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to defend their own rights and interests. The training will be repeated in 2006.

C. The ILO-INDISCO programme

38. The ILO-Interregional Programme to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples through Cooperatives and Self-Help Organizations (INDISCO) programme continues its efforts to alleviate poverty and strengthen the economies of indigenous and tribal peoples in Africa and Asia. Focus remains on strengthening livelihoods and supporting participation in development processes through their own institutions, anchored in their own cultures and needs. Efforts to mainstream gender equality are made at all levels of implementation both in its work on employment policies and programmes and capacity-building training for indigenous communities.

39. The experience of INDISCO shows that poverty reduction and development among indigenous and tribal peoples must be based on a fundamental respect for their cultures and own perceptions of poverty. Community development projects in the Philippines expanded in 2005, with a stronger focus on linking grass-roots experiences with policy development. One of the major challenges is to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in this process and to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples' aspirations and needs in national employment policies and programmes.

40. In the future, community development initiatives in the Philippines, Viet Nam and Cambodia will focus on strengthening indigenous economies and linking local participation with national policy. Consultative processes and mechanisms for dialogue on employment and poverty reduction will be strengthened, maintaining respect for gender equality.

D. In-focus programme to promote the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

41. Under the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, two major activities have been undertaken that are of direct relevance to indigenous tribal peoples: the ethnic audit of poverty reduction strategy paper processes in 14 countries (see paras. 49-52 below) and research on indigenous peoples and forced labour in Latin America.

Special action programme to combat forced labour

42. In 2005, the special action programme to combat forced labour published three studies that documented coercion and debt bondage against indigenous peoples in rural areas of Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru. The studies, which were discussed in a series of workshops with Governments and with workers' and employers' organizations, led to important policy developments. Both Bolivia and Peru have now set up national commissions mandated to develop effective policies against forced labour practices, while Paraguay has announced that it will open an office of the Ministry of Labour in the Chaco region. A new one-year ILO project, funded by the Government of Sweden, will provide an opportunity to support those developments and to scale up cooperation on the larger issue of discrimination against indigenous people in the labour market. The project seeks to promote an integrated approach to the fight against forced labour and discrimination, connecting anti-forced-labour initiatives with broader social policies aimed at combating ethnic discrimination and promoting ethnic justice in the world of work. Additional information on the relevance of this issue to indigenous and tribal peoples can be found in section V below.

E. Inter-agency activities

43. In addition to regional and national inter-agency cooperation, ILO has been actively involved in ongoing work at the international level on indigenous issues. ILO contributions in 2005 include:

(a) Hosting a technical seminar in October 2005 on indigenous and tribal peoples issues for representatives from United Nations system agencies and departments and donors;

(b) Making a substantial contribution to the International Expert Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance;

(c) Participating in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Indigenous Women;

(d) Making recommendations on priorities for a new International Decade for the World's Indigenous People;

(e) Hosting fellows from the fellowship programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in June and July;

(f) Participating in the meeting of the inter-agency support group on indigenous issues held in Panama City in September.

V. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the fifth session, "Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals"

A. General contribution of the International Labour Organization to the Millennium Development Goals

44. The goal of decent work for all and the pledges contained in the Millennium Declaration go hand-in-hand. ILO works closely with other multilateral organizations and civil society in support of the Millennium Declaration. ILO also stresses the importance of country ownership of decent work programmes and poverty reduction strategies through which the poorest countries are working towards the MDGs. This is manifest through the participation of ILO in formulating national poverty reduction strategy papers and decent work programmes in the poorest countries. Increasingly, it is being recognized that poverty reduction strategy papers also need to take into account the diverse needs of peoples within the national context, since groups such as indigenous and tribal peoples are often disproportionately subject to chronic poverty and hunger. Further information on the general contribution of ILO to the MDG process is available at the website of the ILO Policy Integration Unit (http://www.ilo.org/bureau/integration/index.htm).

45. In a review of the impact of the engagement of ILO with poverty reduction strategy papers, its Committee on Employment and Social Policy commented in November 2005 that the organization has now consolidated an approach and methodology to working on poverty reduction strategy papers that will continue to be grounded in capacity-building for constituents and maximizing the broader benefits from engagement in poverty policy dialogues. ILO will now need to become increasingly active in helping to evaluate poverty reduction strategy papers, globally and at the country level, in seeking to influence budgetary processes, advocating an employment-based growth strategy and the inclusion of the rights of sometimes neglected groups, such as agricultural and informal economy workers, migrants, indigenous and tribal peoples (see http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb294/pdf/esp-5.pdf).

46. While the core institutional inputs of ILO to the MDG process come under the decent work mandate of the Policy Integration Unit (with specific focus on decent work for youth), many ILO programmes that address indigenous and tribal peoples intersect with MDGs, and research from a broad spectrum of departments can be brought to bear on the question of how to redefine the Goals with a view to promoting the inclusion of indigenous tribal peoples.

47. The report submitted to the Forum at its fourth session (E/C.19/2005/4/Add.5) dealt uniquely with Millennium Development Goals 1 and 2. ILO progress in those two areas will be reported below, with a specific focus on the question of how the Goals can be redefined to address the particular challenges facing indigenous and tribal peoples. New information regarding the contribution of ILO to an understanding of Goals 3, 7 and 8 will also be presented, with particular emphasis on the final Goal.

B. Follow-up on Millennium Development Goal 1: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger

48. Several ILO departments address the need to develop measures for the participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in development, poverty reduction efforts and decent work initiatives; their activities are set out below.

Ethnic audit of selected poverty reduction strategy papers in fourteen countries

49. The audit was carried out to ascertain whether the rights and needs of indigenous and tribal peoples had been taken into account, given that the poverty reduction strategy paper process was meant to reach out to traditionally marginalized groups.

50. Among the main findings of the study were significant regional differences in the visibility of indigenous and tribal issues in the poverty reduction strategy papers. The debate is still at an incipient stage in Africa. In Latin America, indigenous poverty and its underpinning causes are identified and discussed in the poverty reduction strategy papers, although implementation of measures to address the situation may be lagging behind. In Asia, concern for the unequal development of indigenous and tribal peoples swings from genuine concern, to passing attention, to total neglect, as evidenced by the following:

(a) Only 2 out of the 14 poverty reduction strategy papers successfully mainstreamed indigenous and tribal issues;

(b) Whether the targeted action is directed towards poor areas where indigenous peoples live or at the indigenous and tribal communities themselves, there is no guarantee that the structural causes of indigenous poverty are being addressed;

(c) There is a lack of reliable, accurate and up-to-date statistics disaggregated by ethnic origin;

(d) Only a few poverty reduction strategy papers examine the gender dimensions and dynamics of indigenous and tribal impoverishment.

51. The participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in the consultations related to the poverty reduction strategy papers (if any) is inadequate for numerous reasons including: invisibility of their issues in national development agendas; lack of readily identifiable indigenous organizations; geographical remoteness and language barriers; and restrictive eligibility requirements for participating in the consultations.

52. The following points are highlighted as vital to the future inclusion of indigenous peoples in the poverty reduction strategy paper processes:

(a) Identification of mechanisms that allow indigenous organizations to participate, for example, mapping of existing indigenous organizations;

(b) Identification of the most cost-effective mechanisms for including indigenous peoples at different levels of the consultation process to deal with different issues at different stages;

(c) Recognition of the fact that indigenous and tribal peoples do not constitute a homogenous group, and that, therefore, there is a need for different focus groups to cover different groups.

Inclusion of indigenous tribal peoples in poverty reduction strategy papers: case studies from Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal

53. Case studies were undertaken in Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal to complement the ethnic audit of poverty reduction strategy papers (see paras. 49-52 above). Although the three studies were conducted in very different contexts, it was found that indigenous peoples were not involved in a meaningful manner in the process of developing the poverty reduction strategy paper in any of the countries studied. In most cases, at the local level, indigenous representatives were not even aware of the existence of such a process.

Cambodia

54. The study in Cambodia[4] focused on indigenous peoples' perceptions of poverty. The current Cambodian poverty reduction strategy paper reflects the fact that the Government is becoming more aware of the social exclusion and political marginalization of ethnic minorities in Cambodia, but there is as yet no specific strategy to address the concerns of indigenous peoples.

55. Land for cultivation, land security and having enough food for the whole year were the most quoted priorities indigenous peoples in Cambodia have for their lives, reflecting the fact that indigenous communities today face competition for their ancestral lands with outsiders.

56. Cambodia has recently undergone a process of decentralization, and new administrative structures, such as village chief, commune, district and provincial authorities, impose different ways of decision-making that conflict with traditional collective structures by transferring instructions and orders from the top down.

57. The report makes practical recommendations for development collaboration with indigenous tribal peoples, and they are being followed up within the context of the ILO national project on indigenous peoples in Cambodia, including in training at the national and provincial levels.

Cameroon

58. The study in Cameroon[5] evaluated the level of participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in the elaboration and implementation of the country's poverty reduction strategy paper through a combined analysis of Government policies and information gained directly from consultation with indigenous and tribal peoples. The study concluded that their aspirations and rights are barely taken into account and that there is a risk that the application of the current unitary development model expressed in the poverty reduction strategy paper will actually result in their further impoverishment.

59. Recommendations for integrating indigenous peoples' concerns into Cameroon's poverty reduction strategy paper include:

(a) **In order that their views may be taken into account, consultations with indigenous and tribal peoples must be based on a recognition of their collective rights as peoples with specific cultures;**

(b) **Their modes of land and resource use must be taken into account;**

(c) **Poverty reduction strategy papers need to be based on reliable disaggregated data, collected on the bases of indigenous peoples own criteria for and indicators of poverty; appropriate studies need thus to be undertaken to better understand the specific aspirations of indigenous peoples;**

(d) **Indigenous and tribal peoples should be consulted on and participate actively in the definition of their development priorities;**

(e) **Traditional knowledge should be identified and integrated into poverty reduction strategies.**

60. The recommendations that are of direct relevance to ILO (notably training and dialogue building) are being followed up within the context of the current work of the organization in Cameroon.

Nepal

61. Nepal's poverty reduction strategy paper and the tenth five-year plan (2002-2007) are the same. This is the first strategy plan with exclusive focus on poverty reduction. Unfortunately, Nepal's 59 indigenous nationalities were not consulted during the formulation of the paper. The case study reveals the consequences of poor consultations in the strategy paper process: indigenous peoples are alienated from governance; there is a lack of ownership by indigenous peoples of Government/donor's programmes; and, above all, the participation of indigenous peoples in internal armed conflict is on the increase. The ILO activities outlined below aim to create opportunities for dialogue and the participation of indigenous tribal peoples in the national context.

Nepal's decent work programme: incorporating indigenous concerns

62. Nepal's poverty reduction strategy paper has opened the avenue for the promotion of decent work for indigenous nationalities. The Kathmandu Adivasi-Janajati Declaration on ILO Convention No. 169 and Peacebuilding in Nepal adopted in January 2005, made a specific recommendation to ILO to design, in conjunction with ILO constituents and indigenous nationalities, a decent work plan for indigenous nationalities in a public-private partnership framework. ILO is responding to the demands and concerns of indigenous nationalities by facilitating continuous dialogue among themselves and the Government, offering training and capacity-building on indigenous rights and identifying the main elements of a "Decent work agenda" for indigenous nationalities.

63. Preliminary consultations have highlighted some ways to promote decent work for indigenous and tribal peoples:

(a) Creating sustainable employment through entrepreneurship and skills training for traditional occupations;

(b) Facilitating initiatives through cooperatives/self-help groups for traditional livelihoods;

(c) Working with indigenous nationalities' traditional labour organizations;

(d) Working with trade unions and focusing on rights issues, especially access to natural resources and forest, land and citizenship certificates.

C. Follow up on Millennium Development Goal 2: achievement of universal primary education

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour and Project to Promote International Labour Organization Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples: guidelines

64. Indigenous children are disproportionately forced to perform the worst forms of child labour; specific approaches are needed to address their needs and rights effectively. With that objective in mind, three national workshops were organized in the Philippines, Kenya and Guatemala, bringing together ILO staff, partners and indigenous representatives to identify country-specific concerns and provide recommendations for child labour programmes with indigenous tribal peoples. For example, the workshop in Kenya in October 2005 explored the specific vulnerabilities of children belonging to pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities and identified a number of challenges to combating child labour for those groups.

65. As a result of research in 2005, PRO 169 and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) are developing practical guidance notes for ILO staff and partners on how to combat child labour among indigenous peoples.

Study by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour: social exclusion and child labour in Nepal, with special reference to Janajatis (indigenous nationalities)

66. Child labour exploitation is an alarming problem in Nepal where landlessness, illiteracy, exploitative labour relations and poverty are the basic long-term causes of child labour. For example, 58 per cent of children engaged in the worst forms of child labour come from landless families. The study explored the causes, effects and nature of discrimination against indigenous Janajati child labourers in Nepal in the context of their broader exclusion from national society.

67. The study clearly shows that Janajati child labour is a complex phenomenon interlinked with poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. It is clear that child labour is a political as well as a social problem, since the economic empowerment of the Janajati is hampered by their social exclusion, their non-representation in decision-making processes and their lack of access to resources, resulting from discriminatory Government policies. In addition, education is in the Nepali language, not their mother tongue, which alienates this indigenous group from the educational process. An approach that recognizes their rights and promotes social mobilization may be an important device for building awareness and bringing about positive change. Thus far, there has been no clear and inclusive policy of the Government or NGOs to address the subject of Janajati child labour, and their situation remains poorly documented in Nepal. There is a need for further research.

D. Millennium Development Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women

68. ILO has identified gender as a cross-cutting issue in all of its programmes and activities concerning work and working conditions.

International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour

69. Qualitative research on the gender dimensions of indigenous child labour has been carried out in several indigenous communities in Peru. Follow-up is under way on a study on child labour among Amazonian indigenous peoples, which aims to identify strategies that contribute to combating child labour among indigenous peoples through an evaluation of sociocultural and economic factors that determine the use of time of indigenous children.

Project to Promote International Labour Organization Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

70. PRO 169 has sought to encourage the participation and consultation of women in the decision-making processes that are an integral aspect of all the projects undertaken. In some instances, the lack of participation by women has necessitated project activities (within the framework of national projects) that are specifically directed at mainstreaming gender concerns into projects.

E. Millennium Development Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability

71. The Network of Communitarian Tourism of Latin America is made up of rural and indigenous communities, institutions and technicians devoted to supporting the sustainable development of tourism and eco-business in Latin America while seeking compatibility among the objectives of economic efficiency, social equity and cultural identity. The Network strengthens community-based tourism by delivering a set of support services to local businesses that enable them to more effectively access new markets, improve the quality of their services and increase their competitiveness.

72. In 2005, the Network provided:

(a) Access to information and communication technologies to promote and commercialize nearly 200 community tourist destinations through its website, entitled the "Portal of living cultures" (see http://www.redturs.org);

(b) Knowledge and the sharing of experience through a regional consultation in Panama, where representatives of 10 countries adopted codes of conduct and a collective trademark to market their services.

73. The Network is also developing measures to assess the economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability of community-based experiences in tourism and has carried out two studies to document the supply of community tourism services in Ecuador and other countries in Latin America. A policy paper on decent work and sustainable development with indigenous communities in Latin America will be published shortly.

74. In 2006, the Network will be continuing its capacity-building work for the sustainable development of eco-businesses in Latin America, for example, with training in tourism management in five countries and the publication of a manual for community tourism training.

F. Millennium Development Goal 8: partnerships for development

75. Since this goal is extremely broad, the ILO focus will be on work that promotes good governance with regard to indigenous and tribal peoples, in accordance with ILO Convention No. 169 and will demonstrate how ILO promotes those principles throughout the design and implementation of its own programmes and projects, and on issues related to partnerships with indigenous peoples.

Good governance and indigenous and tribal peoples: the main challenges

76. The final report of the United Nations Millennium Development Project (2005)[6] identifies governance failures as one of the four main reasons for shortfalls in achieving the MDGs and underlines the need for Governments to work with all constituencies and involve all population groups in decision-making processes. This belief was reiterated in the report of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues on its 2004 session (see E/C.19/2005/2), which emphasizes that rights-based approaches to development and good governance are key to achieving MDGs for indigenous peoples and for attaining the broader goals of democratization and construction of more inclusive societies.

77. In addition to ILO Convention No. 169, a number of ILO instruments concerning the administration of labour in general, as well as the organization's instruments on discrimination, contain a series of provisions and principles for good governance. The basic approach is that indigenous peoples should have the benefit of the same rights and opportunities provided to the general population, while at the same time benefiting from special rights and measures to protect their institutions, culture, languages and lands.

ILO Convention No. 169 and good governance

78. ILO Convention No. 169 can provide a useful framework for dialogue, good governance and the inclusion of indigenous and tribal peoples in the decision-making and development processes that affect them. It puts special emphasis on the principles of consultation and participation, stipulating that Governments shall:

(a) Consult the peoples concerned through appropriate procedures and through their representative institutions (article 6.1 (a));

(b) Establish means by which indigenous peoples can freely participate at all levels of decision-making (article 6.1 (b));

(c) Establish means for the full development of indigenous peoples' own institutions and initiatives (article 6.1 (c)).

79. The provisions concerning consultation and participation are directly related to other provisions of the Convention that concern the development process, which stipulate that indigenous peoples have the right to:

(a) Decide their own priorities in the process of development as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions, spiritual well-being and the lands they occupy or otherwise use;

(b) Exercise control over their own economic, social and cultural development; and

(c) Participate in the formulation and implementation of development plans which may affect them directly (article 7.1).

80. According to the Convention, the main responsibility for safeguarding the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples lies with Governments, but it also emphasizes that indigenous tribal peoples have their own social, economic and political institutions. Therefore, ensuring good governance would imply inclusive governance structures that provide the framework for recognition of both indigenous rights and their governance structures, which must be respected and strengthened in the process of development. Underlying the Convention is the importance of bringing parties together, by means of dialogue, so that they work together, for mutual benefit, in the development of a more inclusive society.

81. The main challenge that remains in the countries that have ratified ILO Convention No. 169 is the implementation of coherent and comprehensive mechanisms and legislative frameworks to deal with consultation and land rights issues. Consultation is often lacking, particularly in the exploitation of natural resources and in cases of mining and forestry activities on lands occupied or used by indigenous and tribal peoples. Improved procedures for consultation with indigenous and tribal peoples on matters pertaining to lands and resources, but also relating to a range of other questions, can help to substantially improve governance, leading to more sustainable development, as well as improved relations between indigenous and tribal peoples and States.

Current activities and strategies of the International Labour Organization relevant to the inclusion of indigenous and tribal peoples in Millennium Development Goal 8

82. All of the projects outlined in section IV above are relevant to furthering Millennium Development Goal 8, as understood in its broadest terms. For example, research on the extent to which legislation and constitutions in Africa protect the rights of the indigenous populations is a prerequisite for establishing steps towards good governance practices there. Similarly, research into Moroccan indigenous customary law and processes of dialogue building there are geared towards the harmonization of indigenous and dominant elements of national society. ILO will also be addressing the challenges that arise in the implementation of the principle of consultation at a subregional seminar in Guatemala in 2006, focusing on the responsibilities of countries in that region that have ratified ILO Convention No. 169.

83. As discussed in section I above, capacity-building is a primary concern for all ILO activities in this field and, as such, is an element of all its programmes. The goal of conflict resolution, where relevant, is also a major part of ILO national-level activities that connect Governments and indigenous tribal peoples. Developing indicators and disaggregated data for indigenous tribal peoples is currently a key

focus across United Nations agencies. ILO, with its statistics department, will be looking at ways to address this concern in 2007.

International Labour Organization and indigenous peoples: challenges of partnership for development

84. The concept of partnership is of vital importance to ILO in its work with indigenous and tribal peoples, and thus the principles of consultation and participation enshrined in ILO Convention No. 169 inform the working methodologies of the organization and are the key ways in which it strives to ensure that indigenous tribal people are involved in the development processes that affect them. However, dealing with Governments and with indigenous and tribal peoples' organizations of greatly differing organizational capacity is no small challenge.

85. In Cambodia, for example, organizational structures beyond the village level are constrained by a general lack of education, legal literacy and knowledge of the Khmer language, as well as by their physical inaccessibility. As a result, the participation of indigenous communities in any development project is limited to the village level, a situation that makes it difficult for ILO to work directly with traditional structures. In order to minimize this gap, ILO has entered into partnerships with NGOs on the ground that have significant experience in working in indigenous communities.

86. The need for such intermediate organizations is clear if one considers the mandate of ILO as an international organization whose added value lies in the area of its normative mandate and its capacity for policy work. Technical and research components are a necessary complement to those priorities, and entering into partnerships with implementing organizations is often essential to achieving those goals. Such partnerships often constitute an intermediate step to capacity-building of indigenous peoples themselves, since it creates a means of linkage among international, national and local level frameworks.

87. PRO 169 has supported a series of activities in Kenya aimed at strengthening the voice of pastoralists and hunter-gatherers and the organizations that represent them in relevant policy discussions, especially with regard to their participation in the constitutional review process. The challenges posed by those partnerships proved very different from those in Cambodia, and being of longer standing, they can already be evaluated.

88. In Kenya, the level of organization is relatively high, though somewhat fragmented. This seems to be due to geographical distance and lack of resources, which complicate the holding of organizational meetings and also contribute to conflicts of interest and power between different groups. Indigenous organizations are increasingly entering into partnership relations with NGOs.

89. Lessons learned from the networks that ILO has worked with include:

(a) Support from ILO allowed pastoralists and hunter-gatherers to: define a common position in the constitutional review process; draft papers on the most important substantial issues; have their representatives appointed to key positions in the process; have their main concerns reflected in the draft constitution; and communicate and consolidate their position through community consultations and training;

(b) Direct support of ILO to additional projects ensured: the involvement, to some degree, of youth and women in the process and a legitimizing function to an indigenous women's organization in subsequent approaches to other potential donors;

(c) The requirement imposed by most donors that funds to individual member organizations of the network be channelled through the hosting organization did not take into account the diversity on the ground and even created competing interests between individual member organizations.

90. Based on its experience in Cambodia and Kenya, ILO has concluded that the following are essential elements for effective and efficient partnerships with indigenous and tribal peoples:

(a) **Convergence of substantial objectives between the partners rather than separate institutional objectives;**

(b) **Focus should be placed on strengthening the influence and participation of indigenous peoples in policy- and decision-making processes that affect their lives, involving the diversity of actors that have influence on such processes;**

(c) **Capacity-building should be prioritized, and the conceptualization and design of such capacity-building should be viewed as a long-term process with a clear progression and benchmarks;**

(d) **Indigenous peoples, as well as Governments, agency staff and other relevant actors, must be involved in the capacity-building process in order to bridge the gaps from both sides;**

(e) **Joint assessments and evaluations with partners and understanding partnerships should be undertaken as shared learning processes;**

(f) **Experiences, lessons learned and sharing with other partners should be documented;**

(g) **Special attention should be paid to the participation of women and the discussion of gender issues with partners.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43).

[2] See Barume, A. K., *Cadre légal pour la protection des droits des peuples indigènes et tribaux au Cameroun*, Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, ILO Geneva, 2005 (French only).

[3] See Tchoumba, B., *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Poverty Reduction in Cameroon*, Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, International Labour Office, Geneva, and Centre for Environment and Development, Yaoundé, 2005.

[4] Chhim, K., *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Poverty Reduction in Cambodia*, Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, International Labour Office, Geneva and Centre for Advanced Study, Phnom Penh, 2005.

[5] See Tchoumba, B., *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Poverty Reduction in Cameroon*, Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, International Labour Office, Geneva, and Centre for Environment and Development, Yaoundé, 2005.

[6] For the full text of the report, see http://www.unmillenniumproject.org.

United Nations E/C.19/2006/6/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Information received from the United Nations system

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Summary

In acknowledgement of the importance of the development of indigenous peoples to attaining the Millennium Development Goals, in September 2005, Phrang Roy was designated as Assistant President on special assignment for indigenous and tribal issues.

Following recommendations made by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is pleased to report the allocation of $62.2 million in loans and $500,000 in grants for projects in support of indigenous peoples in 2005.

In addition, the Fund also approved two institutional grants for a total of $350,000. The first was provided to the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum to define indicators of poverty and well-being based on indigenous peoples' own principles, concepts and practices for development. Gender-specific indicators will also be identified in this process. In addition, the grant will enable the Secretariat to ensure that the indicators are widely applied at the country, regional and global level by relevant United Nations agencies and Governments.

* E/C.19/2006/1.

06-26484 (E) 230306

The second grant was provided to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to initiate a worldwide comparative action-research project on the theme of "Identity, power and rights" in relation to indigenous communities. This action research will foster mutual understanding among States, multinational companies and indigenous peoples about the development perspectives of indigenous peoples and raise awareness of the rights and capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development.

Also in 2005, IFAD:

- Financed, through the Regional Programme in Support of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Basin, a second round of learning workshops in the Bolivian Amazon, which focused on the most successful initiatives of indigenous ecotourism in the region. A workshop was also organized in Peru for the exchange of experiences among representatives of 16 of the most promising indigenous projects in the region. Workshop participants selected 3 projects from among the 16 for a best practices award.

- Sponsored the participation of an indigenous expert in the Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in Panama.

- In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, organized a workshop in Rome on indigenous and tribal peoples' perspectives on selected IFAD-funded projects.

- Organized a number of side events at the 10-year review of the Beijing Conference, at which members of the Permanent Forum and indigenous women were invited to discuss their particular concerns.

The focal points on indigenous issues are Phrang Roy, Antonella Cordone and Vanda Altarelli.

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I. Recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Fund for Agricultural Development

1. In 2004, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed two specific recommendations to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

- To lead the mainstreaming of indigenous issues and concerns into poverty reduction strategies at the country level, in collaboration with multilateral organizations, regional agencies and indigenous organizations.
- To initiate programmes in support of pastoralists and semi-nomadic groups in Africa.

2. In terms of the first recommendation, IFAD has been working closely with the World Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the Department for International Development (of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and other bilateral organizations on poverty reduction strategies. The main achievement of IFAD in 2004 was to bring to the attention of relevant Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies the fact that poverty is essentially a rural phenomenon. During the meetings held with these agencies in 2005, IFAD, in collaboration with the World Bank, started sensitizing stakeholders to the importance of including indigenous concerns in poverty reduction strategy practices. This process of sensitization is expected to continue in the coming years.

3. In response to the second recommendation, in 2006, IFAD:

- Financed a programme in the United Republic of Tanzania that is specifically targeted at pastoral and agropastoral households.
- Has started preparing a project in northern Mali in support of pastoralists.
- Will ensure that the revision of regional strategies over the coming year will reflect the need for special assistance to pastoralists.

4. In 2005, the Permanent Forum addressed one specific recommendation to IFAD: that IFAD work on formulating operational guidelines for indigenous peoples' issues and an advocacy framework to promote the rights and the development of indigenous peoples and to attain development goals of relevance to indigenous peoples which emerge from international conferences, summits and conventions.

5. The Fund is currently reflecting on how to initiate a process that would lead to the adoption by the Executive Board of principles of engagement on indigenous issues for use in IFAD operations. Also under consideration are approaches to internalizing the advocacy framework that was prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the experiences gained by IFAD in the field and through cooperation with partners at the international level.

II. Recommendations addressed to agencies

6. The Permanent Forum recommended the mobilization of resources for projects in support of indigenous peoples. It also recommended that international financial institutions design programmes that provide indigenous women with access to credit (in the form of microfinance services). In this regard, IFAD is pleased to report an

allocation, in 2005, of $62.2 million in loans and $500,000 in grants for projects to support indigenous peoples, and in particular, indigenous women (see below, section III and annex). IFAD has also been promoting, in cooperation with the International Alliance Against Hunger, community-led indigenous women's alliances against hunger in north-east India. Building on the IFAD-funded project in the region, indigenous women, through self-help groups and their federations, are attempting to join hands with civil society organizations and the State Government to use collective actions to reduce hunger and poverty.

III. Other relevant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and activities

7. In 2005, IFAD's Executive Board approved six loans for projects in support of indigenous peoples and pastoralists, with a special focus on women. Three of the projects will be undertaken in Asia (China, India and Lao People's Democratic Republic), one in Latin America (Mexico) and one in Africa (the United Republic of Tanzania). The total cost amounted to $190.3 million, of which IFAD provided $62.2 million.[1] The projects should benefit about 1.5 million indigenous and pastoralist households. Most of the projects will promote rural financial services and microenterprises for its beneficiaries through the creation of self-help groups, many of which will be made up of indigenous women.

8. In 2005, IFAD also approved two institutional grants to indigenous organizations and their supporting institutions, at a total cost of $350,000 (see annex for details). The first grant was to the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to:

- Undertake three regional consultations among representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to define indicators of poverty and well-being based upon indigenous peoples' own principles, concepts and practices of development. Gender-specific indicators will also be identified during this process
- Review the proposed indicators and formulate indigenous-sensitive indicators that are applicable globally and indicators that are region-specific
- Provide interim feedback during the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Ensure that these indicators are widely applied at the country, regional and global levels by relevant United Nations agencies and Governments.

9. The second grant was provided to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to initiate a worldwide comparative action-research project on the theme "Identity, power and rights" in relation to indigenous communities. This grant will be implemented in close collaboration with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and has the following specific objectives:

- To commission eight case studies on the above-mentioned theme in selected countries

[1] The Fund also financed a project in Morocco for $16.2 million. This included support to improve the livelihoods of the Amazigh people living in the eastern middle Atlas region.

- To raise awareness of the rights and the capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development path and of the need for States and international agencies to create inclusive consultative platforms that provide these groups with an avenue to participate in decisions that affect their way of life

- To use the research findings to aid the work of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and other United Nations agencies and to assist these bodies in helping indigenous communities achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other social and human rights goals

- To publish and disseminate articles, occasional papers and at least one edited volume on the research theme to draw attention to the challenge of recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples without impeding infrastructure and sectoral development.

10. Finally, a country-specific grant of $500,000 was provided to Guatemala (National Peace Fund) to assist households affected by Hurricane Stan.

11. The Fund sponsored the participation of an indigenous expert in the Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, which was organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in Panama in September 2005. A study was commissioned for the occasion, documenting work on indigenous ethno-botanical knowledge in the Philippines supported by IFAD. This resulted in the document prepared for the Workshop entitled *Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property rights: an enabling tool for development with identity*.

12. IFAD also contributed 9 of the 17 case studies included in the publication compiled by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum: *Indigenous women and the United Nations system: Good practices and lessons learned*.

13. In November 2005, through the Regional Programme in Support of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Basin, IFAD financed a 10-day encounter on the theme "Indigenous tourist enterprises: management experiences". Held in the Bolivian Amazon, this event enabled indigenous representatives undertaking or expecting to undertake ecotourism activities to visit successful ecotourism initiatives and share experiences. (For more details, see www.praia-amazonia.org — Ruta de Aprendizaje.)

14. Also through the Regional Programme in the Amazon Basin, an experience-sharing workshop was organized in Peru. Representatives of 16 of the region's most promising indigenous projects gathered for a week to share experiences; the three projects considered most successful by workshop participants received a prize for best practices. (For more details, see www.praia-amazonia.org — Experiencia Viva.)

15. In November 2005, IFAD and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum sponsored a two-day workshop on indigenous and tribal peoples' perspectives on selected IFAD-funded projects. The purpose was to present the findings of reviews conducted by indigenous experts to assess the extent to which the five IFAD-funded projects were based on the principles, worldview and development practices of indigenous and tribal peoples. The workshop also offered a unique opportunity to exchange ideas on how international organizations and national Governments could play a more effective role in addressing constraints, challenges and opportunities in relation to indigenous and tribal peoples. All the case studies concluded that IFAD-

funded projects took into account the principles and practices of indigenous and tribal peoples and promoted gender and intergenerational equity. The case studies provided greater insight into the role of culture, identity and indigenous traditional knowledge in development. According to the studies, IFAD had developed and used institutional innovations to elaborate and reinforce concepts and practices consistent with the views of indigenous and tribal peoples on development. The Fund's approach also helped to build indigenous and tribal peoples' organizations and governance systems and give them a strong sense of self-determination. Moreover, the transfer of decision-making power, responsibilities and resources to communities had fostered transparency and accountability, for example, in the collective accounting of funds and control over their use and management. However, one of the case studies revealed that IFAD still formulates projects mainly from a rural development perspective and is not always fully aware that indigenous peoples have internationally sanctioned collective rights to their traditional territories, lands and resources, and a right to their own culture and language.

IV. Fourth session special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples

16. Under the grant provided by IFAD, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum organized a side event at the Governing Council in February 2005 on integrating indigenous peoples' perspectives on development to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The panellists included indigenous experts from Latin America, Asia and Africa; Permanent Forum members; IFAD staff; and government representatives from Finland and the Philippines. A second side event, on the same theme, was organized at the fourth session of the Permanent Forum. The panel included representatives of indigenous organizations, other indigenous experts and representatives of Governments.

V. International Fund for Agricultural Development support to conferences and meetings on indigenous issues

17. The Fund expects to support and participate in a workshop on indigenous peoples and communication for development, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Bolivia in June 2006.

18. In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, IFAD also expects to support and participate in the World Bank-organized workshop on indigenous peoples and poverty in New York in May 2006.

19. IFAD is working closely with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, some of its members and other partners to develop a better understanding of the operational implications of development with identity and indigenous governance. The results of this initiative will be discussed at a brainstorming workshop in the second half of 2006 (specific dates to be determined).

20. A second brainstorming workshop may deal with the issue of indigenous technology and technology blending.

* **Annex**

IFAD-financed projects/programmes in support of indigenous peoples — 2005

A. Loans

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
China	South Gansu poverty-reduction programme	**Main objective**: Achieve sustainable and equitable poverty reduction in mountainous areas of south Gansu **Specific objectives**: Achieve a sustainable increase in productive capacity and income growth, improve the environment and increase impact of social services in the programme area	**Programme area**: 109 selected townships in 10 counties in the middle-south portion of Gansu province **Target group**: Rural poor and very poor households, encompassing a large number of ethnic minorities	(a) Investment in rural productivity infrastructure and socio-economic infrastructure (b) Access to financial services and credit (c) Ensure that the intellectual capabilities of all children are enhanced through access to primary education (d) Reinforce human development and grass-roots organizations	Estimated total cost benefiting ethnic minorities: $40 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $14 million	275 000 ethnic minority households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
India	Tejaswini rural women's empowerment programme	**Main objective**: Poor women make use of choices, spaces and opportunities in economic, social and political spheres for their improved well-being **Specific objectives**: (a) Create strong and sustainable self-help groups and related apex organizations (b) Provide access to microfinance services (c) Promote new and improved livelihood opportunities (d) Create access to functional literacy training and labour-saving infrastructure, and strengthen participation in local governance	**Programme area**: 33 rural districts of Maharashtra (of which 16 are tribal districts) and 6 districts in Madhya Pradesh (of which 3 are tribal-dominated) **Target group**: Women members of self-help groups	(a) Grass-roots institution-building (b) Microfinance services (c) Livelihood and enterprise development (d) Women's empowerment and social equity (e) Programme management and institutional support	Estimated total cost benefiting tribal women: $104.4 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $19.7 million	560 000 tribal households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Rural livelihoods improvement programme in Attapeu and Saybouri	**Main objective** Sustained economic growth and livelihood improvement for the rural poor (including women and vulnerable groups) in 8 districts **Specific objectives:** **(a) Communities managing their own development** **(b) Communities using sustainable farming and natural resource management systems and practising off-farm income-generating activities** **(c) Communities having access to local roads** **(d) Decentralized and participatory rural development being managed in a sustainable, accountable, gender-sensitive and pro-poor way**	**Programme area:** Three southern districts in Attapeu and 5 northern districts in Sayabouri **Target group:** 26 200 poor and food-insecure households	(a) Social development (b) Economic development and natural resource management (c) Rural infrastructure improvement **(d) Institutional development and capacity-building**	Estimated total cost benefiting ethnic minorities: $13 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $8.6 million	13 000 households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Mexico	Sustainable development project for rural and indigenous communities of the semi-arid north-west	**Main objective**: Levels of poverty and marginality faced by rural poor communities (indigenous and non-indigenous) are reduced **Specific objectives**: Communities and organizations in the project area develop capacity to participate in local social and economic development processes, improve their productive and employment opportunities, and increase their incomes Sustainability of natural resources is enhanced	**Project area**: 19 municipalities in 4 states of the semi-arid north-west region of Mexico **Target group**: Small poor farmers (farmers who are members of *ejidos* [a legal form of communal ownership] and smallholders); landless farmers and rural labourers; rural microentrepreneurs; and rural and indigenous women and youth	(a) Rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources (b) Strengthening of local development capability (c) Development of rural and nature-based tourism microenterprises (d) Institutional strengthening	Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples: $9.33 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $7.5 million	53 250 households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
United Republic of Tanzania	Agricultural sector development programme – livestock: support for pastoral and agro-pastoral development	**Main objective** Reduce poverty, improve food security and increase incomes among communities with a high level of livelihood dependence on livestock **Specific objectives** (a) Improve the livelihoods of the poorest agropastoralists and pastoralists (b) Strengthen the capacity of livestock communities (c) Enhance the delivery of livestock development services to smallholders (d) Improve marketing infrastructure and marketing systems for livestock products (e) Strengthen national and local government institutions to provide services to the livestock subsector	**Programme area** 11 regions, which include 21 districts **Target group** Small, livestock-dependent farmers, in particular poor, extremely poor and women farmers. In Zanzibar, the programme also targets fishers who are livestock owners	(a) Empowerment (b) Technical support to livestock development (c) Health and water service development (d) Support to policy dialogue, and legal and regulatory frameworks and institutions (e) Programme management	Estimated total cost benefiting pastoralists: $23.6 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $12.4 million	Approximately 600 000 pastoralist households

B. Global grants

Country/ organization	*Title*	*Objectives*	*Area*	*Components*	*Cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Global: Secretariat to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	—	**Main objective**: To enable indigenous communities to assess their well-being according to their own principles, concepts and practices of development **Specific objectives**: (a) To provide indigenous communities, through regional consultations, with an opportunity to define their own indicators of poverty and well-being based upon their principles, concepts and practices of development (b) To propose indigenous-sensitive indicators at the global and regional levels (c) To ensure their wide diffusion and adoption through advocacy work by the Permanent Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group	Global	Undertaking 3 regional consultations (Africa, Asia and Latin America) that gather together representatives of indigenous organizations to define indicators of poverty and well-being based upon indigenous peoples' own principles, concepts and practices of development Reviewing the proposed indicators and formulating indigenous-sensitive indicators that are applicable globally and indicators that are region-specific Ensuring that these indicators are widely applied at the country, regional and global levels by relevant United Nations agencies and State Governments. This will be achieved through advocacy work by the Permanent Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group	IFAD contribution: $150,000	Indigenous peoples of the world

Country/ organization	*Title*	*Objectives*	*Area*	*Components*	*Cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Global: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development	Identity, power and rights	**Main objective**: To ensure that the indigenous vision of development and indigenous rights is recognized, respected and taken into consideration in development programmes **Specific objectives**: (a) To undertake action research in 8 selected countries on the theme "Identity, power and rights" (b) To foster mutual understanding among States, multinationals and indigenous peoples about visions of development (c) To raise awareness of the rights and capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development	Global	Commissioning and undertaking eight case studies in 8 countries Hosting workshops to discuss project focus and findings Preparation and dissemination of project findings through the publication of working papers, occasional papers, policy briefs, articles and book(s)	Total cost: $285,000; IFAD contribution: $199,000	Indigenous peoples of the world, Governments, multinationals and multilateral agencies

C. Country grants

Country/ organization	*Programme title*	*Programme objectives*	*Programme area and target group*	*Programme components*	*Programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Country-specific: Guatemala (National Peace Fund)	Smallholder agricultural production reactivation and infrastructure reconstruction programme in response to Hurricane Stan in the Department of Sololà, Guatemala	**Main objectives**: To contribute to the reconstruction of infrastructure for sustainable agricultural production in 13 municipalities of Sololá Department, affected by Hurricane Stan **Specific objectives**: **(a) The reconstruction and rehabilitation of 6 bridges and the clean-up of rockslides and landslides in small sections of rural roads (33 kilometres)** **(b) Rehabilitation of 3 micro-irrigation systems to promote the reactivation of smallholder agricultural production for self-consumption and the supply of produce to local and departmental markets** (c) Reforestation of selected steep-sloped, particularly vulnerable areas and other areas urgently requiring attention in order to protect selected	**Programme area**: 13 municipalities in Sololá Department **Target group**: Indigenous small producers and community-based subsistence farmers residing in small rural communities with little access to necessary social services	(a) Rehabilitation of bridges and rural roads (b) Rehabilitation of smallholder micro-irrigation (c) Reforestation of risk and protection zones (d) Establishment of banks and outlets for agricultural inputs and tools	IFAD grant $500,000	Approximately 7 300 households

Country/ organization	*Programme title*	*Programme objectives*	*Programme area and target group*	*Programme components*	*Programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
		infrastructure facilities and communities (d) Supply producers with agricultural inputs and tools through microbanks and outlets managed by community associations or municipal authorities to prepare producers for the next agricultural season				

United Nations E/C.19/2006/6/Add.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Ongoing priorities and themes

Information received from the United Nations system

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Summary

The work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is guided by the Habitat Agenda and other international instruments and frameworks related to economic and social development and human rights. The main ongoing activities of UN-Habitat in the field of the rights and needs of indigenous peoples involve efforts to promote inclusiveness, social integration and the realization of housing rights in human settlements, e.g., activities related to the implementation of goal 7, target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals; the Global Campaign on Urban Governance; the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure; and the United Nations Housing Rights Programme.

In response to the outcome and requests of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its previous sessions, particularly the recommendations contained in paragraphs 37 and 65 of its report on its fourth session, UN-Habitat has strengthened its focus on indigenous issues and the needs and rights of indigenous peoples. Efforts are under way to organize an expert group meeting as a follow-up to the research project on indigenous peoples' right to adequate housing, undertaken jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

* E/C.19/2006/1.

06-26556 (E) 290306

The work of UN-Habitat on poverty alleviation and Millennium Development Goals, for example, has the potential to establish direct links with indigenous peoples' livelihoods. Its gender policy aims to address the Habitat Agenda commitment to gender equality by promoting women's equal rights and empowerment. Its activities in the field of disaster mitigation, post conflict and safety in human settlements is related to housing and living conditions of indigenous peoples in most cases. After the tsunami disaster in South-East Asia in 2004, UN-Habitat has taken part in the relief and reconstruction activities jointly with other United Nations agencies, particularly with the United Nations Development Programme.

UN-Habitat participated actively in the International Expert Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance held in New York from 11 to 13 January 2006, and assisted deliberations to focus on the effects of urbanization and migration on the lives of indigenous peoples, and policies and actions needed to address potential and possible negative effects of these processes.

1. The present report is prepared in response to the recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fourth session, particularly those contained in paragraphs 37 and 65 addressed exclusively to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and in other paragraphs as relevant to the mandate and activities of the Organization.

2. Efforts are under way to organize an expert group meeting to review the status of the implementation process of indigenous peoples' housing rights globally, and to identify and document best practices as a follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the research project on the right of indigenous peoples to adequate housing, undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, a joint initiative of UN-Habitat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3. Due to the current lack of funds, UN-Habitat has contacted a number of potential donor countries to explore whether the planned expert group meeting could be hosted by governmental and/or other authorities and organizations in their respective countries and whether financial support could be provided for the endeavour. When the present report was being prepared, no response had yet been received from the contacts. When the funding situation becomes clear and if adequate resources become available, the meeting is expected to be held in the third or fourth quarter of 2006.

4. The expert group meeting will address current situations where indigenous peoples are subject to discrimination and inequality in diverse aspects of housing, including laws and policies that have discriminatory effects, discriminatory allocation of resources for housing, including credit and loans, discriminatory practices of private landlords in the rental market (often preventing indigenous peoples from renting even the worst accommodation), and policies and practices in place to counter such discrimination and inequality.

5. Attention will also be paid to indigenous poverty, disadvantage and discrimination in the right to adequate housing, particularly in relation to the fact that the status of indigenous people is closely connected to dispossession from their lands. In many instances, land dispossession — whether a result of colonialization processes, changes to land tenure schemes or forced eviction for private development projects or the exploitation of natural resources — forces indigenous peoples to leave their lands, and thus all means to sustain themselves or gain a livelihood. As a result of loss of both livelihood and adequate housing, indigenous women and men are compelled to migrate to seek them elsewhere, often in cities and towns.

6. In addition to the above, issues of indigenous women specific to housing, whether in urban or rural areas, will be addressed. Poor and inadequate housing conditions, characterized by overcrowding, lack of privacy and absence or inadequacy of sanitation and basic services exacerbate women's vulnerability to domestic violence. Another phenomenon is the fact that indigenous women are unable to acquire housing independently from men. In some circumstances, society alienates women who live alone, whether they are divorcees, widows, single women or married women who are separated from their husbands. Additionally, customary law, traditions and culture often deprive women of the opportunity to own, acquire or inherit property.

7. Moreover, the expert group meeting will focus on forced evictions and migration to urban centres driven by employment prospects. In the cities, indigenous peoples' experience extreme poverty, rampant discrimination and a loss of spiritual, community and family ties, as well as indigenous culture and values. With the prohibitive costs of home ownership, their housing conditions are often very poor. Many, therefore, live in informal settlements and slums, while others are left homeless.

8. The expert group meeting will address the issue of poverty as a key aspect of improving the housing conditions of indigenous peoples. This is in keeping with the principle that the right to adequate housing is an integral part of the right to an adequate standard of living as articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Governments must create the circumstances for indigenous peoples to become economically self-reliant. They must also develop specific economic policies that stimulate employment opportunities in urban areas and development in rural areas, taking into account indigenous peoples' needs, rights and modes of production.

9. One focus of the expert group meeting will be participation in decision-making. It is a fact that indigenous women and men will continue to be marginalized if they are excluded from decision-making processes. Governments must ensure that indigenous peoples are included as equal partners in all decision-making processes, particularly in those issues of interest and importance to indigenous communities. With regard to housing, indigenous men and women must participate freely and equally in the development of any legislation, policies or programmes that could have an impact on their housing conditions. Indigenous men and women must also participate equally in discussions, negotiations and decisions regarding development projects that are to be implemented on their lands. The principle of free, prior and informed consent should be applied at all stages of the project cycle. The voices of indigenous peoples must be heard and their demands and grievances met when major decisions are taken regarding development priorities and the allocation of resources.

10. The expert group meeting will identify and further document successful programmes and projects, which are often those that have involved indigenous peoples in meaningful and diverse ways. Examples include initiatives in Canada, where social/public housing owned and operated by indigenous peoples and designed in a culturally sensitive manner has proved very popular with indigenous tenants; in Finland, where the Government implemented a loan and grant scheme for the Saami that enabled them to build their own houses on their own lands; and in Kenya, where Maasai women have been part of a project that allows them to use indigenous skills and materials to redesign existing housing so that it responds more to their needs.

11. UN-Habitat is addressing most of the issues raised in the fourth and previous sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within its general activities, which are aimed at improving living conditions of the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including indigenous peoples. In that framework, the work of UN-Habitat on security of tenure provides scope for a strategic partnership with indigenous peoples in addressing the complex nature of land issues. All indigenous peoples retain a strong sense of their own culture, the most salient feature of which is a special relationship to land. The work of UN-Habitat on poverty alleviation and

Millennium Development Goals has the potential to establish direct links with indigenous peoples' livelihoods. It seeks to promote the participation of civil society (including non-governmental organizations) in human settlement development and related decision-making processes. The issue is also relevant to the needs and concerns of indigenous peoples. Despite the fact that urban settlements hold great potential as engines of economic and social development, they can at the same time generate and intensify social exclusion, denying the benefits of urban life to the poor, to women, youth and other marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples.

12. The gender policy of UN-Habitat aims to address the Habitat Agenda commitment to gender equality through the objectives of promoting women's equal rights and women's empowerment internationally in the area of human settlement development, supporting Governments, non-governmental organizations and other partners in capacity-building and development in order to mainstream gender equality in human settlement development, and mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout UN-Habitat activities. While working towards those objectives, UN-Habitat focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women groups, including indigenous women. The main method of outreach for the empowerment of women in human settlements is through the global women's networks that form part of the Huairou Commission. The gender task force, an internal body in UN-Habitat, aims to mainstream gender in all aspects of the work of the Programme.

13. UN-Habitat activities in areas of disaster mitigation, post-conflict and safety are related to the housing and living conditions of indigenous peoples in most cases. After the tsunami disaster in South East Asia in 2004, for example, UN-Habitat took part in the relief and reconstruction activities jointly with other United Nations agencies, particularly with the United Nations Development Programme. In the Aceh region in Indonesia, the efforts focused on land issues and were undertaken in three directions: (a) relocation of entire settlements where destruction was significant; (b) readjustment in existing settlements where destruction was partial; and (c) settlement upgrading where in situ improvement was feasible. Given the importance of land issues, the activities are directly affecting the lives of many indigenous peoples.

14. The participatory mapping and community action plan process of UN-Habitat enables community members to take an active role in re-establishing formal occupancy rights throughout areas affected by the tsunami. The mapping of plot ownership in new or rehabilitated villages will become the basis for the registration and provision of land certificates by the national land agency in Aceh. Some 5,000 families are currently directly assisted in Aceh by UN-Habitat.

15. The involvement of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and particularly goal 7, targets 10 and 11, is relevant to the issues, needs and rights of indigenous peoples.

16. As elaborated in section A, global research on the housing conditions of indigenous peoples in both urban and rural areas — and including the status of the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as enshrined in international instruments — reveals that indigenous peoples live in worse conditions than the rest of the population in most countries. Furthermore, research highlights the vulnerability of indigenous groups, which are often affected by displacement, the insecurity of tenure over their traditional homelands and the culturally inappropriate

housing alternatives offered by authorities. Goal 7, target 11, which envisages the achievement of a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, is relevant to the status and needs of indigenous peoples in both urban and rural areas, and is also clearly addressed in the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda. Similarly, target 10, which aims at the halving of the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, is directly relevant to the mandate and the diverse activities of UN-Habitat.

17. UN-Habitat supports the recommendations made by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the outcome of discussions held on the topic during the fourth session of the Forum. UN-Habitat furthermore believes that the above-mentioned targets should be given special attention, with clear quantification, so that more effective commitments can be made at the regional and national levels and related actions can be initiated.

18. UN-Habitat participated in the International Expert Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance, held in New York from 11 to 13 January 2006. It discussed the principles of good urban governance as defined by the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, one of its main initiatives. It also highlighted, inter alia, the important changes taking place in the lives of indigenous peoples in most parts of the world as a result of urbanization and migration processes. UN-Habitat recommended that the capacities of indigenous peoples and their organizations be strengthened so that their participation and effectiveness in urban governance could be facilitated. The representatives at the Meeting agreed upon the importance of the highlighted issues and proposed recommendations to be reflected in the outcome of its deliberations.

19. Major upcoming events for UN-Habitat relevant to indigenous issues include the third session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006, and the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, to be held in Nairobi, from 16 to 20 April 2007.

United Nations

E/C.19/2006/6/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Ongoing priorities and themes

Information received from the United Nations system

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Summary

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues makes substantive recommendations of particular relevance to the work of various divisions in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs — such as data-related work, women and sustainable development — which in turn have been increasingly taking indigenous issues into consideration in their respective work. The progress and achievements witnessed in those areas in 2005 are contained in the present report.

* E/C.19/2006/1

06-26505 (E) 240306

I. Statistics Division

1. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has collected data on national and/or ethnic groups, languages and religions from population and housing censuses for more than 50 years, using standardized questionnaires sent to national statistical offices. The collected data are processed and disseminated by the Division through the Demographic Yearbook system, which is designed to collect, compile and disseminate official national demographic and social statistics at the international level. Data are disseminated through print publications such as the *Demographic Yearbook*, over the Internet and on CD-ROMs dedicated to special topics.

2. Before 2005, no data on ethnocultural characteristics had been published since 1993. By the end of 2005, the Division published data on national and/or ethnic groups on the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Work is underway to review data on language and religion by mid-2006.

3. One of the main activities of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division has been coordinating the revision and update of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*. In August 2005, an expert group meeting on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses was held to lay down the modalities for updating and revising the existing publications. One of the areas to be revised is ethnicity, taking into account relevant issues pertaining to indigenous people. The experts are drafting the revised section after having consulted the report of the Permanent Forum at its fourth session (E/2005/43).

4. Some of the key issues being considered in the above revision include the importance of national context, the process nature of ethnic identification, the importance of self-identification, and the potential role of statistics to measure the well-being of indigenous peoples.

5. The Division is currently reviewing national practices in the collection and dissemination of statistics on ethnocultural characteristics. The focus of the study is the types of data being collected and disseminated by different countries and the types of international activities conducted to improve data collection and methodologies. In addition, the report on national practices will cover current issues related to the collection and dissemination of ethnocultural statistics.

6. Another development is a website to disseminate data on ethnocultural characteristics and other information relevant to statistics on indigenous peoples (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm). The website is being continually improved and updated with the support of the Permanent Forum. It features links to data available on national statistical offices' websites. The Division has developed a census metadata database that contains questions included in country questionnaires during the 2000 round of population and housing censuses (1995-2004). It has also developed web interfaces for the databases and expects to make them available online in the near future.

7. The Division is supportive of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum relating to statistical work. The main obstacle has been the heavy workload of staff, specifically the staff time requirements dedicated to the flagship publication, *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*.

II. Division for the Advancement of Women

8. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women continues to review the situation of indigenous women in reporting States in a systematic manner. During its thirty-third session from 5 to 22 July 2005, the Committee raised the issue of indigenous women in the constructive dialogue and in the concluding comments of those States parties that have indigenous peoples among their populations (e.g., the third, fourth, fifth and sixth combined report of Guyana, CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/3-6).

9. The Commission on the Status of Women continues to address the situation of indigenous women primarily in its work on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. In March 2005, during its forty-ninth session, the Commission adopted resolution 49/7 on indigenous women: beyond the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The issue of indigenous women was also highlighted in resolution 49/2 on eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in the panel discussions on the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and on the future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality. Further information about the resolutions and summaries of the panel discussions are contained in document E/2005/27.

10. The situation of indigenous women was covered as part of the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action. The Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the regional commissions, compiled information from Governments on major achievements and obstacles in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly through questionnaires. Part two of the questionnaire requested Governments to include information on indigenous women.

11. Twenty-four Governments provided information on indigenous women, specifically on Government measures, actions and policies aimed to improve the status of indigenous women, and on the obstacles and challenges to eliminate their discrimination and social and economic exclusion. The report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2005/2) contains a section summarizing those efforts.

12. Sixty indigenous women from around the world attended the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Their participation in the session was very active and productive, as they took part in eight side events, two press conferences and a one-week seminar on the United Nations system.

13. The Division for the Advancement of Women participates in and contributes to the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality task force on indigenous women. Representatives of the Division attended the meeting held in April 2005 aimed at achieving the medium-term objectives of the task force, namely, to identify successful interventions and good examples of United Nations work on indigenous women's issues, with emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals.

14. The Division contributes to the Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues. It participated in the meeting held in September 2005 where the follow-up actions to the fourth session and the preparation of the fifth session of the Permanent Forum were discussed. The Division also provided its comments to the draft provisional framework for technical cooperation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

15. As part of the preparation of the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on violence against women, the Division has set up a task force to facilitate inputs. The International Indigenous Women's Forum, associated with Madre, an international human rights organization focusing on women's rights, is an active member of the task force and facilitates the channelling of information on the particular challenges and vulnerabilities indigenous women face. The Division invited non-governmental organizations to highlight key issues and recommendations that should be considered, as well as examples of good practices in addressing violence against women. It also hosted an online discussion to facilitate input and feedback from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. Non-governmental organizations, including the Forum and CUSO (Canada), contributed to both, noting the specific concerns of indigenous women.

III. Division for Sustainable Development

16. Broad public participation in implementation is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Indigenous peoples are one of the nine major groups recognized by Agenda 21 as essential partners in the advancement of sustainable development.

17. Since the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1992, major groups have been given important roles to play as partners in sustainable development. The Commission's meetings have provided innovative spaces for the input of non-governmental actors with the overall purpose of assisting the Commission's decision-making processes.

18. In preparing for the fourteenth session of the Commission, from 1 to 12 May 2006, which will focus on evaluating progress in implementing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in relation to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change, indigenous peoples' organizations have been invited to:

(a) Submit inputs to the reports of the Secretary-General;

(b) Participate in regional implementation meetings and contribute to the regional review of challenges and obstacles in the implementation of thematic clusters of the fourteenth session of the Commission;

(c) Prepare a discussion paper through the coordination of a steering group of indigenous peoples' organizations serving as organizing partners (namely, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and the Indigenous Environmental Network, see http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mg_op). The discussion paper (available in all official languages) will represent the main written input of indigenous peoples to the Commission. The discussion paper reports on indigenous peoples' activities on the thematic cluster (see http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd14.htm).

(d) Participate in the activities of the fourteenth session of the Commission, including:

- A dedicated multi-stakeholder dialogue session with major groups
- A ministerial dialogue session with major groups
- Thematic and regional discussions, the day dedicated to small island developing States, the partnerships fair and the learning centre
- Closing remarks on how major groups will initiate action on implementation in relation to the thematic cluster of issues.

19. The Division for Sustainable Development provides limited funding to indigenous peoples and other major group participants to enable their participation in Commission meetings. In 2005, the Division collaborated with indigenous peoples' groups and other major groups to ensure their involvement, contribution and participation in the preparatory process leading to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005.

20. The indigenous peoples of small island developing States participated in thematic discussions and in a high-level round table, and contributed to the activities of the partnership fair and to the various side events organized during the Meeting. The Division has been able to secure the participation of representatives of about 20 major groups, including several indigenous peoples' representatives.

United Nations E/C.19/2006/6/Add.4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Ongoing priorities and themes

Information received from the United Nations system

World Health Organization

Summary

The Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative of the Pan American Health Organization has been effective not only in advocating for the well-being of the indigenous peoples of the Americas in regional, national and local forums, but also in forging strategic partnerships and networks that have promoted processes aimed at improving the health conditions of indigenous peoples. Based on the Initiative and the evaluation of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People carried out in 2004, the Health of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Programme has been established as a new space within which to deepen, expand and consolidate projects related to the improvement of the health of the indigenous peoples of the region.

* E/C.19/2006/1

06-26677 (E) 210306

I. Recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the World Health Organization

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to respond to recommendations made during the previous session of the Permanent Forum. At its fourth session, the Permanent Forum had recommended that WHO organize, host and report to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session on methods, processes and best practice of integrating indigenous traditional knowledge, medicine, healing and other health practices in mainstream health-care systems and sensitizing health personnel concerning the protection of indigenous knowledge systems. The present document highlights some of the WHO activities relating to these recommendations.

2. A study on maternity in Quechua women, Bolivia, conducted by Causananchispaj, a non-governmental organization, with technical and financial support from the Regional Office for the Americas/WHO and Population Concerns, had pointed to the failure of health service to appreciate the traditional maternal care practices of community midwives as an important factor in maternal and child mortality in rural and indigenous populations in the Caiza D and Cotagaita municipalities of Potosi. High rates of maternal mortality in Potosi (496 per 100,000 live births) and low use of health services (only 24 per cent of women used health services to give birth) provided the impetus to propose an innovative and alternative strategy for maternal care that would be responsive to the viewpoint of women in the area. Ignorance of traditional cultural practices, lack of communication, and conflicts regarding objectives and allocation of resources for the maternal health programme were believed to be the reasons behind the poor rates of service usage for pregnant women. A three-phase strategy was proposed. The short-term proposal to create a rapprochement between public-health services and traditional service by organizing midwives and developing ties between the two services was implemented in August 2003. That proposal brought together 65 lay midwives to participate in activities relating to maternity care, timely identification of risks, and hygienic care in childbirth. The midwives indicated the possibility of referring high-risk cases to conventional services so long as respectful treatment was provided. In addition, 35 health officials from 25 health facilities in the municipality have been working to adapt care to the local culture, exploring traditional medicine, and responding to local health problems with policies that employ the perspective of the social actors involved, namely, mothers, midwives and health services.

3. On 25 November 2005, WHO hosted the first informal meeting of Permanent Forum representatives at WHO headquarters. Victoria Tauli-Corpez, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, met with members of the health and human rights team, the focal point for indigenous issues within WHO headquarters. She also met with a large number of departments dealing with issues including mental health, suicide and alcohol, HIV/AIDS, traditional medicine, the Millennium Development Goals, diabetes and tobacco, and with senior policy officials.

4. Within the Regional Office for the Americas, technical cooperation and the actions of member States are based on the principles of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative. These principles are: the need for a holistic approach to health; the right to self-determination of the indigenous peoples; the right to systematic participation; respect for and revitalization of indigenous cultures; reciprocity in relations; and the promotion and

protection of the right to health and other related human rights in the context of indigenous peoples' health. The work of PAHO has been effective also in promoting health as a human right and protecting indigenous peoples' rights according to international and regional human rights law and standards.

5. Work to date has been concentrated in the following five areas: building capacity and alliances; working with member States to implement national and local processes and projects; projects in priority programmatic areas; strengthening traditional health systems; and scientific, technical and public information.

6. Currently, there are projects and/or inter-programmatic activities in the following areas: integrated management of childhood illness, malaria, tuberculosis, reproductive health, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, virtual campus, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, human rights, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, social exclusion, elders' health, oral health, eye health, rehabilitation, and access to water and sanitation. The involvement of indigenous representatives in the technical cooperation actions has been a permanent priority.

7. The Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative has been effective not only in advocating for the well-being of the indigenous peoples of the Americas in regional, national and local forums, but also in forging strategic partnerships and networks that have promoted processes aimed at improving the health conditions of these peoples. Results to be highlighted include networks of collaboration, policymaking, strategies, plans and projects, as well as institutional, community and human resources development programmes.

8. Based on the Initiative and the evaluation of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People carried out in 2004, the Health of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Programme has been established as a new space within which to deepen, expand and consolidate projects related to the improvement of the health of the indigenous peoples of the region. The goal is to contribute to the achievement of equity in the Americas in a context of recognition and respect of cultural diversity of the peoples, in order that complete well-being may be attained.

9. A specific example of work related to the health and human rights of indigenous peoples undertaken by PAHO has been that highlighting the plight of divers belonging to the group of indigenous people known as Miskitos off the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua and of Honduras (further information is available from http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/special_050818.htm). Traditional lobster fishing has undergone a hasty transformation into a large-scale industrial operation. An estimated 9,000 divers are involved in the industry, many of whom dive without the proper equipment and 98 per cent of whom are Miskitos. Ninety-seven per cent have suffered some kind of decompression-related syndrome or disability and at least 4,200 Miskitos are totally or partially disabled owing to the syndrome. PAHO has been developing a training workshop to address these issues surrounding lobster fishing. In this regard:

- From 1 to 3 September 2004, PAHO organized a training workshop to disseminate the international and regional human rights norms and standards that protect the human rights of persons with disabilities among the Miskitos. The training workshop was organized in the region of Gracias a Dios (Honduras) where Miskitos are becoming disabled owing to their deep sea

diving and fishing of lobsters. In addition, they do not have access to rehabilitational care, treatment or equipment.

- The training workshop was conducted in Spanish with simultaneous translation into Miskito and gathered together indigenous leaders, divers organizations, regional human rights bodies, international agencies, the ombudsperson's office, organizations of persons with disabilities, governmental officials, public-health personnel, lawyers and family members, among others who were familiar with the international human rights norms and disability standards and had been trained in the use of human rights mechanisms in the context of the Inter-American system of human rights.

10. The major recommendations of the participants were:

(a) To disseminate among the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and members of the judiciary the conclusions of the training workshops;

(b) To inspect and repair the three hyperbaric chambers located in the zone of Kaukira, where the Miskitos could receive medical and rehabilitational care before and after diving. That action was essential to preventing disability and, as a consequence, protecting the rights, inter alia, to life, personal integrity, health and equal protection under the law;

(c) To implement the monitoring procedures as established by the national rules on deep sea fishing especially with regard to the employer's responsibility for taking injured divers to the closest health centres;

(d) To create a commission that would collaborate with the national committee that was reviewing the situation of the Miskitos in the context of sea fishing and disability and to disseminate among the members of such a committee the international human rights treaties ratified by Honduras and the international human rights standards on disability;

(e) To organize local training workshops on disability and human rights in collaboration with the ombudsperson's office.

11. As a result of the training workshop, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is reviewing the particular situation of 30 Miskitos who became disabled as a consequence of practising deep sea fishing and not having had immediate access to care, treatment and rehabilitation or immediate use of the hyperbaric chambers. The Commission has received information from the Government of Honduras and has interpreted the American Convention on Human Rights in the light of international public-health and disability standards. As a consequence, recommendation 10 (c) above is now being implemented by the Government in collaboration with the private sector and the ombudsperson's office.

12. Further information relating to indigenous health and human rights at WHO is available from the Health and Human Rights website at http://www.who.int/hhr/activities/indigenous/en/ and from the PAHO website at http://www.paho.org/English/AD/THS/OS/Indig-home.htm.

II. Obstacles to implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum and to other policies relevant to indigenous peoples

13. The largest constraint on implementing recommendations put forth by the Permanent Forum and on other policies relevant to indigenous peoples is limited human and financial resources available to complete this work within WHO. There are no current resources, either human or financial, at WHO headquarters available to move forward action in this area.

14. WHO priorities are set by member States and no reference to indigenous health work has been made in the Eleventh General Programme of Work and Proposed Programme Budget 2006-2007, the document outlining WHO priorities for the next two years. Work relating to indigenous health continues to be undertaken, without resources, under the auspices of the health and human rights team, which focuses particular attention on the health rights of vulnerable population groups and works closely with other WHO departments in this context.

III. Other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and activities relating to indigenous issues within agencies/funds/programmes/departments

15. WHO has a clear mandate with regard to indigenous health, most notably that set out in World Health Assembly document A55/35, which had been prepared in partnership with all WHO regions and outlined a global strategy to improve the health of indigenous peoples. The strategy recommended action in five areas: (a) health and demographic data and information; (b) health promotion; (c) health systems and access to care; (d) influencing the determinants of health; and (e) promoting enhanced political commitment and national capacity.

16. This outline of a global strategy suggested a number of activities at both policy and technical levels. Some of these suggested activities are now being undertaken and expanded in a workplan being developed to move forward distinct projects in these areas. These activities include:

(a) An indigenous health and human rights publication. As a method of raising awareness of the health issues faced by indigenous peoples, an indigenous health and human rights publication will advocate for a greater focus on the health rights of indigenous peoples by exhibiting good practices. It will increase the availability of high-quality information to support action in this area. This publication will be prepared, and published as part of the WHO Health and Human Rights Publication Series (see http://www.who.int/hhr/activities/publications/en/index.html for other publications in this series) in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders such as the Permanent Forum, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

(b) A training module. In collaboration with stakeholders, a training module will be developed and made available (online or on CD-ROM) to build the capacity of health policymakers to successfully address indigenous peoples' health issues.

Specifically, it would strengthen capacity to develop, implement and evaluate programmes and services designed to identify and respond to indigenous peoples' health needs and rights.

(c) Data disaggregation. The Permanent Forum has recommended that WHO disaggregate health data to expose the health disparities of indigenous populations globally. Moreover, the need for disaggregated data was endorsed as a core activity of the above-mentioned strategy adopted by the World Health Assembly. Though WHO does not disaggregate data in relation to ethnicity/indigenous status, there is a potential to use data from the 2002 World Health Survey. The World Health Survey was a WHO initiative meant to compile comprehensive baseline information on the health of populations in order to provide evidence to policymakers and to build an evidence base from which to monitor health. Ethnicity or other relevant variables such as geographical area, poverty and language were reported as part of this survey. Through a process of consultation with national statistical organizations, it is hoped that this information can be deciphered and disaggregated so as to unlock health research opportunities including the areas relating to health disparities, health system responsiveness and the applicability of health policies. Filtered through the lens of ethnicity (or other relevant variables), this information can be used to support countries in their efforts to design appropriate health policies and programmes.

(d) Integrating indigenous health in international and national development frameworks. While the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies carry the potential for assessing the major health problems faced by indigenous peoples, they do not necessarily capture the specificities of indigenous peoples and their visions of health. Efforts are needed to ensure that these development frameworks take into consideration, and are implemented in ways that promote and respect, indigenous peoples' health and human rights. This project will aim to link and integrate indigenous considerations with poverty reduction strategy processes and Millennium Development Goals work by engaging with the main partners of the World Health Organization.

These projects are being pursued as part of a project proposal that is currently being developed.

IV. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the fifth session of the Permanent Forum, namely, "The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals"

17. The Regional Maternal Mortality Inter-agency Task Force made up of eight international organizations (the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United States Agency for International Development, Family Care International, the Population Council, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and PAHO) signed an unprecedented commitment to support the reduction of maternal mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean. That commitment recognized that maternal mortality was an obstacle to the achievement of equity and to development.

United Nations E/C.19/2006/6/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Ongoing priorities and themes

Information received from the United Nations system

Commonwealth Secretariat

Summary

The present report of the Commonwealth Secretariat is its first. The report describes policies, activities and plans regarding indigenous issues.

Commonwealth approach to indigenous issues

1. The Commonwealth, as a community of 53 member States sharing histories and the values of development and democracy, recognized in 1979 that indigenous peoples may require special provisions to improve their socio-economic situations. The key statement on indigenous issues by heads of Government was made at the Lusaka Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1979, where they recognized, in the Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial Prejudice, that "special attention" needed to be paid to "the problems of indigenous minorities".

2. The Commonwealth also recognized the needs and rights of indigenous peoples in the report of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Development and Democracy which was considered by the Heads of Government Meeting in Abuja in 2003. Entitled "Making democracy work for pro-poor development", the report recognized the economic, social and political constraints faced by indigenous peoples. Particular mention was made of indigenous people's poor health status and their often constrained access to land. By emphasizing that democracy requires the

* E/C.19/2006/1

06-26709 (E) 170306

strengthening and preservation of a political culture which respects human rights, including the group or collective rights of indigenous peoples, the report underscored the need for Commonwealth Governments to heed the special concerns and rights of indigenous peoples and strive to meet their needs. The report also highlighted the need for policies that contribute to cultural diversity and stressed the importance of the political representation of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples.

3. At their seventh meeting, in Fiji in 2004, Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs recognized for the first time the particular discriminations and disadvantages faced by indigenous women and their communities. Ministers committed themselves to work on the issue through the recommendations outlined in the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015. The Plan of Action thus made a commitment to promote "the rights of indigenous peoples, especially women, in political, social, economic and cultural spheres".

4. The Gender Section of the Social Transformation Programmes Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat is mandated to assist member Governments and other key stakeholders in implementing the Plan of Action. The convening in mid-2006 of a pan-Commonwealth conference on gender, youth and indigenous peoples is to be the first step by the Commonwealth in addressing indigenous issues from gender and youth perspectives. The conference will seek to identify the issues facing indigenous women and young people in Commonwealth countries and identify ways to advance their situation at various levels. Most of the background papers for the conference have been written by indigenous peoples.

5. The objectives of the pan-Commonwealth conference are to:

(a) Raise policy awareness on the multiple discriminations faced by indigenous communities, particularly women, men and young people, and offer a holistic perspective on indigenous peoples' rights;

(b) Provide a gender dimension to the socio-economic situations experienced by indigenous peoples;

(c) Forward to Governments substantive recommendations for improving the lives of indigenous peoples through policy formulation and practice.

6. In meeting the above objectives, the conference will seek to highlight the interconnectedness of indigenous peoples' situations, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the realization of their human rights. The Conference will also highlight that the attainment of equitable natural resource distribution and sustainable biodiversity management will contribute to the preservation of indigenous knowledge and culture.

United Nations E/C.19/2006/6/Add.6

Economic and Social Council

Distr. General
10 March 2006

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fifth session
New York, 15-26 May 2006
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Information received from the United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report highlights a select number of initiatives and activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme in 2005 as they relate to the recommendations provided by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

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* E/C.19/2006/1

06-26827 (E) 300306

I. Policy framework

1. The mandate, development cooperation processes and agreements of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the aspirations of indigenous peoples guide the Programme's engagement with indigenous peoples and their organizations. In the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004), and building on previous initiatives, in August 2001 UNDP issued a policy guidance note entitled *"UNDP and indigenous peoples: a policy of engagement"*. The objective of the policy note was to provide UNDP staff with a framework to guide their work in building sustainable partnerships with indigenous peoples. Rooted in the goals and targets set by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, it is underpinned by the international human rights framework and a full recognition of the vital role of indigenous peoples in, and contribution to, development.

2. In May 2000, UNDP established a Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee composed of 14 civil society leaders who provide strategic advice to the Administrator and senior management on key policy advocacy initiatives. The Committee, which includes the chair of the Permanent Forum, has been a vehicle to bring the concerns of indigenous peoples to the attention of the UNDP Administrator and senior management. Similar advisory committees have been established at the national level in Botswana and Brazil, where indigenous peoples' issues have also been addressed.

II. National human development reports

3. National human development reports are an important tool for generating debate on issues of concern to indigenous peoples. Such policy advocacy documents, supported by UNDP, take stock of human development at the country level and aim to stimulate public debate and political attention to pressing development priorities.

4. In some countries, such as Chile and Mexico, the human development index has been used specifically to generate disaggregated statistical information on indigenous peoples, in Chile on the Mapuche population and in Mexico on indigenous populations in the entire country. In 2003, Chile produced a human development index for the Mapuche population in the region of Araucania. In 2005, the Mexico country office partnered with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in the development of the human development index for indigenous peoples. In some cases, the indicators have been adapted to reflect local realities, such as life expectancy in the case of Chile. The 2006 Guatemala national human development report is focusing on cultural diversity and will contain a wide selection of data on indigenous peoples.

III. Global programmes

5. The Human Rights Strengthening Programme (HURIST), a joint programme of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, aims at integrating human rights in development by building the capacity of United Nations country offices, preparing methodologies and toolkits on human

rights and through documenting and disseminating good practices in the application of those rights in development. HURIST supports implementation of the UNDP policy on human rights as presented in the policy document entitled "Integrating human rights with sustainable human development" (1998) by supporting the development of national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights and the application of a human rights based approach to development programming.

6. In 2002, HURIST incorporated an indigenous peoples' component aimed at enabling implementation of the UNDP policy of engagement with indigenous peoples (2001) and creating a mechanism for dialogue at the national level to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in UNDP activities at both the policy and programme levels.

7. In 2004, HURIST launched two pilot projects in Ecuador (March) and Kenya (June). Support is currently being given to phase two of HURIST Ecuador, which focuses on project development. The four goals of phase two of HURIST Ecuador are:

(a) To strengthen the ombudsman's office on indigenous peoples' issues;

(b) To strengthen existing dialogue mechanisms at the national level and create new ones that focus on the implementation of human rights through the establishment of a national indigenous peoples forum;

(c) To disseminate interculturalism and human rights in the primary education curricula of the National Office of Intercultural and Bilingual Education;

(d) To promote attention to indigenous peoples' rights in international cooperation.

8. Among the key outputs of the HURIST initiative in Kenya was the facilitation of a frank dialogue between members of Parliament and indigenous representatives and the establishment of an advisory mechanism on indigenous issues known as the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee of Kenya (UNIPACK). HURIST Kenya has received additional funding for 2006 to carry out its initiative. The interim committee has contributed to the terms of reference for the permanent UNIPACK (to be put in place in 2006) and a framework for membership. The committee will:

(a) Establish a mechanism for dialogue and information-sharing among indigenous peoples, the United Nations system/UNDP and relevant national actors, such as Government authorities and parliamentarians;

(b) Provide strategic guidance on indigenous peoples' concerns, principles and perspectives for UNDP country programming and related policy initiatives supported by UNDP and the United Nations system;

(c) Promote stakeholder dialogues and initiatives with state and non-state actors, including representatives from indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society organizations, that strengthen networks and raise awareness about influencing policy;

(d) Provide space for mutual learning and understanding between indigenous peoples and UNDP/United Nations staff.

9. Based on the successes of the HURIST programme thus far, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation is providing support to the second phase of the Ecuador project and to two additional projects in Guatemala and Bolivia. The activities will take place during 2006.

IV. Regional programmes

10. UNDP is currently implementing the $2 million regional initiative on strengthening policy dialogue on indigenous, highland and tribal peoples' rights and development. The project aims to enhance intercountry sharing of experiences on priority issues, particularly with regard to reducing the incidence of poverty among indigenous peoples. It aims to build capacity among all stakeholders and strengthen information networks and knowledge management systems, particularly among indigenous peoples, to support their full and effective participation in policy dialogue at all levels. The project is being led from Thailand and the core participating countries include Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Some of the intended outputs include needs assessments, capacity-building initiatives such as training and materials for indigenous peoples and government at the national level, indigenous advisory mechanisms, pilot projects and learning networks at the national and regional levels. The regional initiative also pays particular attention to the concerns and needs of indigenous women, especially in the area of indigenous knowledge and sustainable resource management.

11. The initiative has partnered or led activities in strengthening indigenous peoples' organizations and movements in the Asia-Pacific region in a range of key thematic areas during 2005, working with Governments, indigenous peoples organizations and UNDP country offices.

12. Work undertaken in the programme is broadly divided into the following key thematic areas: natural resource management and land; law and policy frameworks; capacity development and training; and gender. In 2005, more than 40 projects and programmes covering all those areas were led or partnered in by the regional initiative. Key initiatives include studies on access to formal and informal justice systems; studies on local governance systems and their relevance to and inclusion of indigenous peoples; building the capacity of women, youth leaders and communities affected by development policies and projects. The regional initiative also provided advice to the Governments of both Cambodia and Indonesia to analysis and reform of existing policies on indigenous peoples, and in initiating, with the Government of Viet Nam, a review of existing land tenure arrangements affecting indigenous peoples.

13. The Tebtebba Foundation implemented a data disaggregation project that seeks to address the lack of accurate information-gathering vis-a-vis indigenous peoples. The Foundation is working with the National Statistics Office of the Philippines to determine ways in which disaggregation of data can be institutionalized, and preliminary surveying is taking place in three provinces.

V. Country programmes

14. In 2004, the Guatemala civil society participation programme took on board the organization Tob'nel Tinamit-Defensa Legal Indígena. One objective of the project was to provide a follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. In late October 2005, the first alternative Mayan observation report was presented as a response to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. A total of 72 organizations have participated in the Mayan observation initiative, and the report has been validated by 15 governmental and non-governmental organizations.

15. In Suriname, a project scheduled to start in 2006 aims at empowering indigenous and tribal authorities to fully participate in a national land rights dialogue. It is the first project of its kind.

16. In Panama, a local management centre was established and is fully operating in collaboration with traditional indigenous authorities and local governments in el Darién. Income-generating activities and capacity development for local sustainable economies, developed with the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, are being implemented. The centre will be able to mobilize resources at both the national and international levels for various projects and to implement income-generating and capacity development activities using the learning-by-doing methodology.

VI. Global Environment Facility small grants programme

17. Since 1992, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) small grants programme has promoted grass-roots action to address global environmental concerns. The small grants programme allocates grants of up to $50,000 — with an average grant size of $20,000 — directly to non-governmental, community-based organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations to support their efforts to protect the environment while generating sustainable livelihoods. The programme is a corporate initiative of GEF, and is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the three implementing agencies of GEF, which include UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank. The programme currently operates through a decentralized management system in 95 developing countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Latin America and the Caribbean.

18. Country-level activities are guided by national steering committees made up of a majority of representatives from national non-governmental organizations, academia, co-funding donors, United Nations agencies, the private sector and indigenous peoples' representatives.

Guatemala

19. Since its inception in 1997, the national steering committee of the small grants programme, which approves all grants in Guatemala, has sought to work in the south-western region of the country as priority geographic area owing to the high levels of human threats to globally significant biodiversity and international watersheds. The national steering committees noted that traditional funding sources

and donors had not allowed indigenous Mayan peoples in the south-west to participate in development projects owing largely to educational barriers and high levels of ethnic and linguistic diversity of the Mayan groups. The GEF small grants country programme also observed that local intermediaries often followed their own agendas on project development while working with indigenous peoples. As a result, there were few opportunities for indigenous people to express their own needs and environmental interests. The national strategic framework for small grants programme was reviewed and priority was placed on the following aspects:

(a) Priority funding should be targeted at communities in extreme poverty and exclusion (indigenous peoples and women's groups);

(b) Specific procedures and proposal formats should be developed to facilitate access for those groups.

20. According to that strategic framework, a survey was conducted to identify communities that were among the poorest of the poor as a priority population based on UNDP national human development reports. The disaggregated survey results identified 18 municipal provinces, 6 of which were selected according to criteria of the national steering committees. Once the priority municipal provinces were selected, community-based organizations were proactively contacted by the small grants programme, and special project formats and training materials in the form of flip charts were designed and developed.

21. A training workshop was subsequently held and 32 indigenous leaders (31 women and 1 man) were trained as "voluntary promoters" of participatory diagnostics in the area of environmental community problems, gender work issues, project co-financing, project planning and design, budget development, and monitoring and evaluation. Once trained, the indigenous promoters returned to their respective communities to develop a project proposal based on participatory means and a planning grant to facilitate community consultations. Community field visits were also made by the national coordinator of the GEF small grants programme, members of the national steering committees and United Nations Volunteers to accompany the project development process.

22. The lessons learned from the indigenous community promoters were that:

(a) Most indigenous promoters were efficient and effective in project proposal development, using their own language and respecting local traditions;

(b) Indigenous promoters facilitated the expression of communities' interests and priority environmental problems;

(c) Translation into local Mayan languages was provided during training sessions to assure full understanding of small grants programme procedures;

(d) Childcare during workshops ensured the full participation of women;

(e) Project co-financing and community participation was achieved owing mainly to the innovative design of the innovative flip chart project formats;

(f) Following the success of that approach, the National steering committee of the GEF small grants programme included three new members from local indigenous populations to participate in the approval of grants for other indigenous beneficiaries.

23. In addition, the Global Environment Facility small grants programme in partnership with the Civil Society Organizations Division, has been working to facilitate indigenous peoples' access to grants through innovative methods, such as participatory video-making. Two consultative workshops were held in 2004 and 2005. In 2006, the Global Environment Facility small grants programme, Civil Society Organizations Division and HURIST will commission a how to handbook on participatory video-making.

VII. Millennium Development Goals

24. Over the past four years, UNDP has engaged in raising awareness of the Millennium Development Goals among indigenous peoples and their organizations at various international forums.

25. UNDP seeks to collaborate with indigenous peoples and their organizations in achieving the Goals, and recognizes that greater efforts are needed to include the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in the development of the Millennium Development Goals country reports that monitor the progress of the goals. Greater coordination between indigenous peoples' organizations and the Millennium campaign is also needed; nevertheless, the first steps have been taken.

26. UNDP builds the capacity of communities to localize the Millennium Development Goals by providing small grants to community-oriented sustainable development projects and through community-to-community learning exchange facilities that encourage the sharing of knowledge and best practices among community-based organizations. In addition, community dialogue spaces profile communities during global conferences and highlight the contribution of communities, especially indigenous peoples, in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Such dialogue spaces bring together representatives of communities and indigenous peoples with international Government and civil society organizations leaders for a frank exchange on how to develop an enabling environment for community participation in regional development.

27. UNDP welcomes the opportunity to work with the Forum in ensuring greater engagement of indigenous peoples in the Millennium Development Goals process so as to build on opportunities and better address the challenges.

28. Co-organized with Equator Initiative, the Civil Society Organizations Division and other partners, the Community Commons, a civil society organizations forum, was held from 16 to 18 June 2005 in New York. The forum brought together 150 representatives from community-based and indigenous peoples' organizations to prepare a community position to the issues raised by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005) and to ensure that civil society and community-based organizations could present a collective agenda to the General Assembly during its hearings with civil society in June.

29. The Asia and Pacific Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme in south-east Asia has commissioned a report on the obstacles and barriers to greater inclusion of indigenous peoples in the Millennium Development Goals and will continue to closely monitor the national policy frameworks for achieving the Goals to review inclusion or marginalization of indigenous peoples.

30. The following are publications related to the Millennium Development Goals:

(a) Civil society organizations' perspectives on the Millennium Development Goals (2005): a compilation that features the viewpoints of some of the members of the Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee and focuses on issues of gender, environment trade and indigenous peoples;

(b) Millennium Development Goals and ethnicity (2005): in response to the Secretary-General's visit to the Andean region in 2003 and his alarm that the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved if indigenous peoples were not targeted, UNDP, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, commissioned this study which aimed at highlighting key issues of concern within Goals 1 to 3 on poverty, gender and education.